

TODAY



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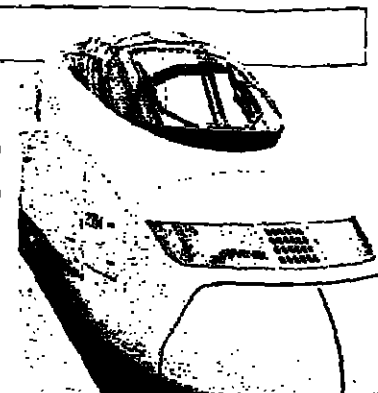


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700,000 exiles take the road home

Exodus begins as militia are driven from Zaire camps

FROM SAM KILEY IN GOMA

HUNDREDS of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees joined a gigantic flood of humanity 25 miles long yesterday in an exodus with a difference — they were going home.

Packing their belongings into sacks, rolling their mattresses into bundles, they heaved their lives on to their heads after extremist Hutu militia who had held them captive for two years were overrun in a brilliant surprise attack by east Zaire's rebels.

"We had 50,000 refugees crossing into Rwanda as of mid-afternoon. There are another 300,000 to 400,000 on the move," Fernando del Mundo, a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said. Ray Wilkinson, also of the UN, said the camps were now empty of all but the dead.

"It seems the whole pocket around Goma and Mugunga involving 700,000-plus people is on the move, most of them in this direction," he said. "Mugunga camp is complete-

ly empty, but we have been discovering massacre sites within the camp.

"At this rate, most of these people could be home by the weekend," he added. "It is extraordinary we have seen the cracking of this problem in one day."

Despite the dramatic exodus the countries planning to join a multinational force were continuing yesterday to prepare troops for deployment to the region.

In New York, the United Nations Security Council agreed on a resolution to deploy the force which was due to be adopted last night.

A British reconnaissance party also arrived in Nairobi last night to begin assessing the requirements for Britain's contribution. However, the Rwandan Government said yesterday that the return of the refugees removed the need for an international force.

The rebels assaulted militia positions on Thursday afternoon and had driven their enemy into the jungle by yesterday morning.

Rwandan Hutu civilians were then ordered to leave for home. They needed little persuasion after two years in refugee camps as prisoners of the militia which was behind the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

About 35 people, including women and children who had been collecting water from an Oxfam storage tank, were allegedly murdered by Rwandan Tutsi soldiers in revenge for the genocide. A few very young babies were discovered among the dead and the wounded and were rushed to a



A 25-mile column of refugees trudges back to Rwanda from Mugunga camp in Zaire. The camp was deserted last night. About 35 people were killed by advancing Tutsis

hospital in Goma by Merlin, the British medical agency.

The incident marred what was otherwise an almost happy occasion, even though the refugees' leaders had tried to persuade them that they would be slaughtered when they got back to Rwanda.

Juvenal Harelymana, 24, knew he would have to face enquiries into whether he participated in the genocide when he got to Rwanda. "I am

not afraid. I did not do anything wrong during the genocide so I have nothing to fear," he said.

Earlier claims by aid agencies that hundreds were dying in Mugunga camp, where the refugees had been concentrated, have proved entirely false. They were given two weeks' food, two days before the great march home, and their water supply system was intact in spite of the fighting.

The first 10,000 refugees crossed into Rwanda in an hour and a half yesterday morning and were housed in a reception centre. But the breathtaking number of others behind them are likely to overwhelm the relief agencies and the Rwandan Government who have jointly planned for an influx of 250,000 people.

As Rwanda's Hutus headed home along the main road, the

rebels continued to flow west, deeper into Zaire. Their prey were the *Interhamwe*, the extremist Hutu militia. Heavily armed and scowling, they jogged in single file over rolling hills to hunt down their enemies.

Handfuls of others watched the refugee flood with indifference. "They are not interested in us. It's the militia they are after. They don't want to kill us," said Juvenal.

Paulin Ndayayo, 20, an aspiring Hutu poet and former translator, was visibly delighted at the sight of the rebels. He had been repeatedly threatened with murder by the *Interhamwe* because he spoke English.

"I am very relieved to be out of this. I am going home. I have dreamed of this moment and lived in fear for two years," he said. Speaking for the UNHCR,

Mr Wilkinson said: "From an humanitarian point of view a major nut has been cracked. We've got what we wanted. Instead of waiting a month for a UN military intervention during which many people would have died, the rebels have sorted out the problem."

Military options, pages 16, 17
Simon Jenkins, page 22
Leading article, page 23
Mother of refuge, Magazine

Court ruling to free hundreds from jail

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of prisoners are to be freed from jail early after a High Court ruling yesterday that the method used for calculating inmates' release dates was unlawful.

The unanimous decision is expected to trigger a flood of compensation claims from inmates and ex-offenders going back six years, which could cost £18 million.

Two prisoners at the centre of the ruling were freed from jail within hours of yesterday's 25-page unanimous judgment by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and two other judges. Fifty other prisoners could be released within the next few days.

Michelle Evans left Broc-

kill jail near Redditch, where she had been serving two years for robbery and burglary and Paul Reid left Onley young offenders institution near Rugby, where he was serving 27 months for burglary.

The prison service said early indications suggested that about 820 prisoners would be affected by the changes, with about 50 eligible for imminent release. More than 540 inmates were freed in August during the early release fiasco over the calculation of consecutive sentences.

Ann Widdowson, the prisons minister, defended the Government's position and

Continued on page 2, col 1

BMW gets £50m aid for new plant

BMW is to build a new Rover engine plant in the West Midlands after the Government put up cash aid likely to top £50 million. The German company was enticed by sweeteners that include free land, help with the infrastructure and training, along with low wages. Page 27

Schoolgirls riot

More than a hundred girls from rival schools in Wimbledon, southwest London, ran riot after two of them argued over a boyfriend. Page 5

Ulster peace hope

Sir Patrick Mayhew made his most conciliatory speech about Sinn Féin since the collapse of the IRA ceasefire, breathing new life into the peace process. Page 6

Hunt on to find widow, 89, with £2m lottery ticket

BY PAUL WILKINSON

AN ELDERLY widow from Hull says she is the missing owner of the ticket for a National Lottery prize of almost £2.1 million, the biggest unclaimed sum. The woman contacted the *Hull Daily Mail* anonymously claiming that her husband had bought the ticket shortly before his death, but she did not want the money.

In her letter the woman, who is 89, says she is too scared to collect her winnings and has asked that the money go to the hospitals which cared for her dying husband in his final days. But unless she specifies which ones they are, the prize will go into the lottery

distribution fund, which gives unclaimed prize money to a variety of good causes.

Stan Szecovka, the paper's deputy editor, said he was convinced that her letter was not a hoax and urged the pensioner to come forward before the deadline of 11am next Thursday when the ticket can no longer be cashed. Camelos, the lottery organisers, said: "We can confirm that a winning ticket for the May 25 draw was purchased in Hull. The sum involved is £2,054,754. We had one case before when a lady didn't want to claim her prize. Unless the person does contact us, we cannot help."

The winning numbers were 8, 20, 36, 34, 42, 43, and the bonus ball was 25. The writer claims that her husband had chosen the winning numbers in the May 25 draw in the first and only gamble of his life, but he died four months ago before they had decided to collect the money.

She wrote: "I have the winning lottery ticket, my late husband bought it. I was very shocked when he died, he had never gambled in his life, so I don't know why he did it. It was a grand feeling to win, but too late. I am 89 years of age. Sorry, but I don't wish to give my name. I am sure the fuss would finish me off."

Bleak news for the fish as angler lands five a minute

BY BRIAN CLARK, ANGLING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S match anglers have a new target. In a competition fished on the River Wye in Herefordshire the first three anglers averaged more than 1,000 fish apiece in 300 minutes. The winner caught 1,500.

The match results and the winners' tactics are analysed in the current issue of *Angling Times*, the matchman's tabloid Wisden.

The match was the Hereford and District Angling Association Open, on a river famous for big fish, with

salmon, barbel and chub. Almost all the fish caught were bleak, a fish so tiny that they could free fall through a jamjar without touching its sides. A typical bleak weighs one third of an ounce. A glass-case bleak, if one can imagine such a trophy, would weigh half an ounce or a little more.

Larry Salter, of Ebbw Vale, landed enough to make up a total weight of 40lb 12oz, a bleak match record. The second biggest bag also broke the record, which had stood at 44lb 2oz for years. The third



The bleak: not worth eating so put back in the river.

biggest bag was not far behind. Salter, a "human windmill" according to *Angling Times*, took his fish on a single hook at a rate of five a minute, one every 12 seconds. In that time

he had to cast out, get a bite, hook a fish, bring it in, unhook it, put it into a net for weighing later — and then rebait his hook if necessary.

"It was incredible," he said yesterday. "Sometimes they

came faster, sometimes slower. There were periods when I was getting 12 fish a minute on the same chewed up maggot. Then things would grind almost to a halt. There were times when I was getting only two or three a minute. I just had to keep my head down. I just had to keep on concentrating. I was absolutely shattered by the end."

"Bleak bashing" is a far cry from the way most anglers fish. Most coarse anglers think bleak fishing is barmy —

Continued on page 3, col 1

Leading article, page 23

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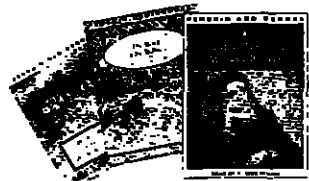
Rob Hughes reports from Old Trafford

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Prisoners freed

Continued from page 1
said that four previous court rulings had upheld the prison service's method of calculation. "What the courts have reversed is not the Home Secretary's practice but it is their own four previous rulings," she added.

Miss Widdicombe said she was not willing to concede there was a convincing case for compensation. "We were detaining them in accordance with the law laid down at the time. So we are by no means ready to say that there's a blanket case for compensation," she said.

A Home Office spokesman said the Government would consider the judgment carefully before deciding whether to appeal to the House of Lords.

If the Lords backed Mr Howard, any prisoner released early would be liable to be recalled to jail.

Helen Edwards, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said: "We trust that this time the Prison Service has made plans to ensure these prisoners will be adequately prepared for their release, thus avoiding the problems that occurred with the un-planned release of prisoners in the summer."

Twenty-nine prison service members have been suspended from duty after a West Yorkshire police investigation into alleged expenses fiddles by former and present staff attached to the service's Wakefield training college.

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Howard knows how to pick his enemies

IT HAS been a surprisingly good week for the Home Secretary. Surprising, because the headlines have dwelt on his defeats in court. Good, because those defeats draw to the attention of a wider audience just who Michael Howard has been fighting. The bruises he has sustained this week are, in the eyes of those he is keen to impress, badges of honour.

For a man spoken of as a future leader of the Conservative Party, it is important to have the right enemies in the eyes of one's honourable friends. On the Tory benches, and indeed in sections of the Tory press, it is no disadvantage to be seen as the enemy of liberal judges, the man who said no to Mohamed Al Fayed

and the minister anxious to keep agitators from foreign shores.

Mr Howard's crime in Islington eyes is to have defied the progressive consensus in home affairs to which his predecessors deferred. While Mrs Thatcher's ministers won the economic arguments, they were more muted on social matters.

The consequence was a rising crime rate, a sense among voters that politicians were detached from their concerns and a waning respect for the justice system. At the time Mr Howard became Home Secretary, BBC's *Panorama* was investigating the growing appetite for vigilante action across the country. He made it his task

The bruises he has suffered this week are, in the eyes of many of those the Home Secretary is keen to impress, badges of honour. Michael Gove explains

to provide the public with the protection they required.

Mr Howard's prescription of tougher sentences, more prisons and changes in the law to help the police aligned him with Middle England but alienated him from the higher professions. Home Office civil servants, lawyers and judges were deeply hostile to reform of the failing system over which they had presided.

The vocal opposition of these vested interests has been the best signal to Tory MPs

that Mr Howard is addressing the concerns of their wavering supporters. Moreover, by seeking to clip judicial wings, Mr Howard is seen to be defending the supremacy of the Parliament in which those MPs sit.

Judges aside, the position of Parliament has been undermined by allegations of sleaze and the encroachment of Brussels. The man most associated with sleaze allegations against this administration has been Mohamed Al Fayed.

Simply to be seen denying him citizenship, for whatever reason, will endear Mr Howard to embattled colleagues.

Those same colleagues have also been made increasingly aware of Mr Howard's Euro-scepticism. Offending judges in Strasbourg play well with the Right, even more than annoying judges in the Strand. Also, Mr Howard's cheerleaders point out, he was the first minister to propose a power be returned to Britain from Brussels.

For those cheerleaders, it is Mr Howard's resolve more than the results that matter. But for Mr Howard's Tory detractors, the accumulation of reverses in the courts make the Home Secretary accident-prone. He will certainly not be

helped if he has to give taxpayers' money to criminals as compensation for too long a stay in prison. Moreover, Mr Howard's critics argue, his defeats are all the more dishonourable, because his position is dictated by calculation, not conviction.

The Home Secretary is certainly ambitious, but in choosing to confront the liberal establishment he has displayed a certain courage. Villification aside, he has denied himself the benefit of the doubt from traditional sources extended to his more consensual fore-runners. His enemies are hungry for his humiliation. But it is by the vigour of their opposition that he is strengthened where it counts: on the backbenches.

High Court condemns prisons confusion

By RICHARD FORD AND ADRIAN LEE

THE Prison Service suffered a fresh blow yesterday when the High Court ruled that it had been calculating release dates on concurrent sentences unlawfully for almost 30 years.

In a unanimous decision, three judges headed by Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, upheld a test case brought as a result of this summer's fiasco over the early release of 541 inmates serving consecutive sentences.

The judges said: "It appears that defendants are remaining in prison when the sentencing court did not intend that they should."

Lord Bingham said: "The principle that a prisoner's release date should be beyond dispute, and that the provisions governing it should be easy to apply, is of great importance. It is not, on any showing, a test which the present provisions meet. They are not clear to the courts, or the legal profession, or prisoners or, it would seem, the prison authorities."

The judges held that the Prison Service's method of deducting time spent on remand from the overall length of sentences was fatally flawed. Lord Bingham concluded: "It appears that defendants are remaining in prison when the sentencing court did not intend that they should."

The ruling overturns earlier court decisions going back to 1982 which had all upheld the Prison Service's method of calculating jail terms in concurrent cases. They included judgments involving a host of senior members of the judiciary including Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Lane, the former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Russell

and Lord Lloyd. The judges confirmed the case raised a point of law of general public importance, but refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Lord Bingham said they were not attempting to thwart the Home Office and that it was still open to Mr Howard to apply to the Lords for leave to appeal.

Within hours of the judgment, the two prisoners who brought the case were released from custody. Michelle Evans, one of the prisoners, was jailed for two years for terrorising a stranger in the street before robbing her of jewellery.

Clare Lewis, 18, was approached by Evans, a single parent, in the Grangetown area of Cardiff. An engagement ring was torn from her finger and two gold chains from her neck. In January, Cardiff Crown Court heard that the victim pleaded to keep her engagement ring. In return Miss Evans, now 22, demanded a pair of gold earrings.

She was later caught by police who were already holding a warrant for her arrest after another burglary. She pleaded guilty to robbery, burglary and absconding.

Jailing her, Judge Michael Burr said the sentence reflected how seriously courts would deal with those who robbed members of the public in the street.

Paul Reid, from Manor Park, east London, the other prisoner in yesterday's case, was jailed for 27 months at Snaresbrook Crown Court in May, for four household burglaries and one handling charge. The break-ins were carried out in the East Ham and South Woodford areas between August 1994 and May 1995.

The problem that was ringing alarm bells

By RICHARD FORD

MICHAEL HOWARD has known for months of mounting alarm within the Prison Service about the complexity of calculating the release dates of inmates from prison. Derek Lewis, the former Director General of the Prison Service, warned the Home Secretary last year that the "law governing sentence calculation is difficult and arcane."

In a memo seen by *The Times*, he told Mr Howard and Ann Widdicombe, the prisons Minister, that the complexity of the system led to legal challenge, a high error rate and arbitrary results: "The law governing sentence calculation has evolved over the past thirty years piecemeal.

Successive layers of legislation have added to the complexities over time and created uneasy, and sometimes unworkable, juxtapositions. The results are so complex that only a handful of people in the prison service and legal advisers branch together have full mastery of the technical application of the law in the most complex of individuals."

The task facing prison staff who have to calculate at least 120,000 sentences each year was highlighted by a sentence calculation manual sent to prisons in August. It was this revised manual, based on Home Office legal advice, which triggered the early release of 541 inmates serving consecutive sentences and a series of court

hearings culminating in yesterday's decision on concurrent sentences.

The revised guidance on consecutive sentences, often given to hardened criminals, was that the total time spent on remand should be taken off each jail term.

Michael Howard ordered a halt to the early releases after receiving further legal advice from David Pannick, QC, and at the end of August won the backing of the High Court. They ruled that it was "an absurdity" if the total time spent on remand for a series of offences was to be reduced from each consecutive sentence handed down by the court. It was to be reduced from the overall sentence.

Mr Justice Popplewell said that under the Prison Service guidelines, a

man who had spent a year on remand in prison and was sentenced to a year in jail for ten offences consecutively would be released immediately where as his accomplice who had received bail would face ten years in prison.

However, in backing Mr Howard on consecutive jail terms, the judges warned that there was ambiguity over the correct treatment of concurrent sentences, often given to less serious offenders.

David Roddan, general secretary of the Prison Governors Association, welcomed yesterday's clarification of the way sentences should be calculated: "In a busy local prison, a governor would be occupied for half a day every day just doing the calculations."



Karamjit Singh Chahal waves to supporters yesterday as he leaves Bedford prison after the Home Secretary ordered his release

Accused activist freed after six years inside

By RICHARD FORD

A SIKH activist who spent six years in prison awaiting deportation for alleged terrorist activities was freed yesterday after the European Court of Human Rights ruled that if he returned to India he risked torture and mistreatment.

Within an hour of the judgment Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, ordered the release of Karamjit Singh Chahal from Bedford prison, where he had spent six years fighting an expulsion order.

The country's longest serving detainee embraced his wife and two teenage children outside the jail. He said: "I am not angry. I am very happy. It is just like a dream."

The court said the British government's untested allegations about Mr Chahal's terrorist activities and his threat to UK national security, were not a consideration in its decision. The judges ruled by 21 votes to seven that if Mr Chahal, 48, from Luton in Bedfordshire, was deported to India, as the then Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke had ordered in 1991, the Government would breach his human rights safeguarding citizens against mistreatment. The court also ruled that his rights had been violated by the absence of a judicial involvement in testing the "national security" grounds on which he was to be deported.

The judges said that although they were well aware of the difficulties faced by countries fighting terrorist violence, the European Convention on Human Rights absolutely prohibited torture or inhuman treatment, irrespective of the person in question.

"It was therefore unnecessary for the court to enter into a consideration of the Government's untested, but no doubt bona fide allegations about Mr Chahal's terrorist activities and the threat posed by him to national security," the judgment said.

"The only relevant question was whether substantial grounds had been shown for believing that he would be ill-treated in India."

They said they were persuaded by evidence from Amnesty International and the US State Department that until 1994 at least some in the Punjab police were accustomed to acting without regard to the human rights of suspected Sikh militants.

But they ruled by 13 votes to six that the fact that Mr Chahal had been in detention and uncharged for so long was not a breach of his human rights. The case involved serious considerations and it had not been in the public interest to act hastily.

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Car linked to handbag snatch smashed into college friends as they jogged

Medical student killed by hit-and-run driver

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MEDICAL student died and her friend was seriously injured after a hit-and-run driver struck them as they jogged through a park.

Caroline Elliott, 22, who died from head injuries yesterday, and Sarah Edenbrow, 21, were due to begin a new course together next week at Liverpool University. It is thought that the driver, who was travelling at up to 80mph, was escaping after snatching a handbag near by.

Miss Edenbrow, from Boston, Lincolnshire, was said to be in a serious condition last night with head and leg injuries. She shared a flat with Miss Elliott, from St Albans.

The fourth-year students were jogging in the rain in Sefton Park, Liverpool, when they were struck on Thursday evening. Friends and tutors spoke of their shock yesterday. Sanit Gosh, president of Liverpool University Medical Students' Society, said: "Caroline was a wonderful person. We are all terribly upset."

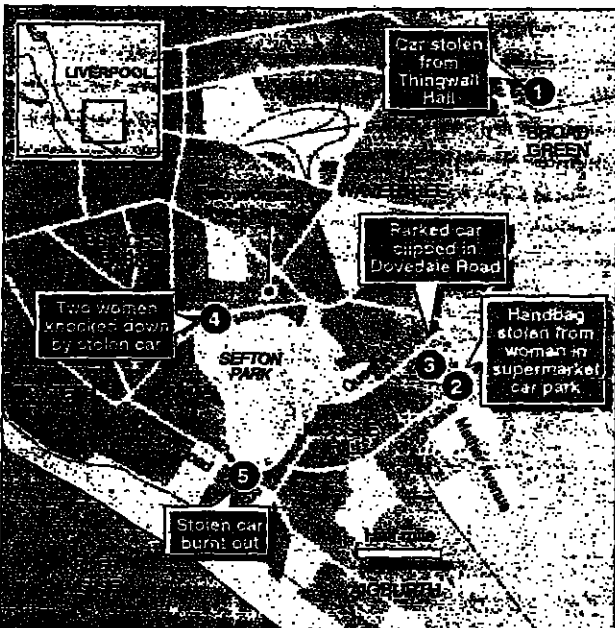
The two young women had just completed a course in childcare. On Monday they were due to start an obstetrics and gynaecology course at Liverpool Women's Hospital.

Professor Bernard Wood, the dean of the faculty of medicine at the University of Liverpool, said: "Caroline represented all that is good about medical students. She was diligent and caring but adventurous, too. She had studied in South Africa and was planning to visit Sweden to study next year." Miss Elliott has a brother and sister.

A spokesman for the Medical Students' Union said Miss Elliott's colleagues were "utterly devastated" by her death. "Caroline was immensely popular and she had lots of friends. She was so talented it



The Vauxhall Astra that hit the women was found burnt out in a car park. It was stolen on Monday



was unbelievable. She put so much of herself into everything she did.

"She was a good medical student and a good netball player. She had her whole life ahead of her. She was a beautiful, intelligent woman. It is so sad. She had only one

year to go and she would have qualified."

Miss Elliott had been due to take part in a fashion show in the near future. A rehearsal planned for last night was cancelled. She had represented the university at netball. A witness said the students

did not have a chance to escape from the path of the car. Fred Hill, 75, said: "The car wasn't driving, it was flying. I saw the car seconds before it hit the girls. It was travelling at about 80mph. There was no way they could have got out of the way."

A nurse who was passing helped the students. Merseyside Police believe that the driver of the vehicle, which was stolen from Broad Green, had been involved in a handbag snatch at the Tesco supermarket car park in the Allerton area. It may also have hit a parked car in Mossley Hill at about 5.30pm.

Detective Chief Inspector Peter Edge, crime manager for south Liverpool, appealed for witnesses yesterday. "The exact movements of the girls are not known," he said. "It was during the rush-hour and it was dark and raining. We would like to speak anyone who saw any one of the incidents: the bag-snatch at Tesco, the minor collision, the fatal collision or the abandoned car being left or burnt."

Miss Edenbrow's parents, Maureen and John, also appealed for witnesses. They said: "Our hearts and thoughts are with Caroline's parents and family. We would appeal to any witnesses to the incident or anyone who can help in any way to contact Merseyside Police."

Mr Edge said that a woman had her handbag stolen as she was loading shopping into the boot of her car just after 5.30pm. The car sped from the scene and moments later clipped a parked car.

The girls were jogging at the Croxteth gate entrance to Sefton Park when the car hit them two or three minutes later. The Vauxhall Astra, index number J541 HHT, had been stolen from Thingwall Hall in Broad Green on



Caroline Elliott, 22, died of head injuries the morning after the crash

Monday. It was set alight minutes later and burnt out in the car park of Belham Towers, a block of council flats.

Mr Edge said: "We cannot be certain that it was one car involved in all these incidents,

but we believe it was. We need as many people to come forward as possible.

"We still need to establish where the women were when they were hit. We would urge the occupants of the car, or anyone who is hiding them, to

come forward." Richard Oswald, a spokesman for Merseyside Ambulance Service, described the crash as appalling. He said: "The incident is made all the worse because the driver left the scene of the crash."

TV show on antiques inspired burglar

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BURGLAR raided a museum and stole 18th-century antiques worth an estimated £50,000 after watching a BBC television programme about the collection, police believe.

Detectives said that the thief may well have seen an edition of *Going for A Song* before planning the raid at Bantock House Museum in Wolverhampton and finding a buyer for the haul. A canteen of cutlery, including 23 silver knives and two porcelain-handled forks, a wig powderer and a collection of Birmingham enamels and snuff boxes were taken. All the items stolen featured in the programme when it was re-launched last January with Michael Parkinson as host.

Detective Constable Peter Lane, of West Midlands police, said: "It seems a bit more than coincidence that they should all have been taken. It looks as if they could have been stolen to order following the programme."

After forcing a first-floor window last Thursday, the burglar crossed a conservatory roof before gaining access to the collection. The BBC last night described the raid as "unfortunate". Greg Hayman, a spokesman, said: "It's one of those very unhappy coincidences. It's true that the items did all feature on the programme, but they were also on public display, so people were able to view them."

Wolverhampton Borough Council, which administers the museum, said: "The burglar obviously knew what he was going for and it looks as though he stole to order."

Kathleen Howe, curator at Bantock House, agreed: "We believe the burglary was carried out by one person who was extremely professional. He did not by-pass the security alarm but got away before police arrived. The collection was very rare and virtually irreplaceable."

Drummer loses job overture over drinking

By PAUL WILKINSON

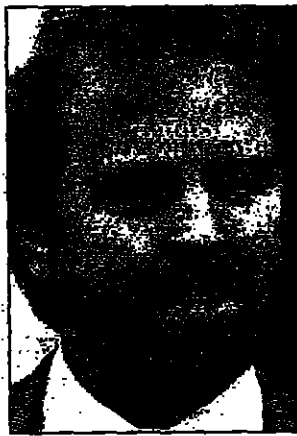
DRINKING was a regular feature of life among members of a leading BBC orchestra, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. Some principal musicians allegedly took beta blockers because of the stresses of a punishing schedule.

But a timpanist was ruled to have been fairly dismissed for drunkenness after a series of incidents during a live broadcast, when he missed an entry and caused a noisy interruption as a wheel from a kettle drum rolled off the rostrum.

Ray Lomax, 41, had told the Manchester hearing that he had celebrated his birthday last January by drinking wine, gin and beer before an evening concert with the Philharmonic Orchestra. He was later replaced because his playing was "erratic". Afterwards he was sacked for "persistent gross insubordination".

Mr Lomax, who had been with the orchestra for 20 years, told the hearing: "The timpani are quite a close set, a family really. We celebrate each other's birthdays with a meal. I had a gin and tonic and a couple of glasses of wine. After rehearsal, I went to the pub and had a couple of pints of bitter."

"I do not really believe what I consumed affected my playing. Maybe my mental state wasn't up to scratch, but what happened to the timpani was a complete accident. The wheel on one of the drums fell off the edge. I wasn't playing at the time so I grabbed it and brought it back. It was a bit of a shock and I had to get my place back. I don't disagree that I missed the first entering but I am contesting that my performance was completely



Lomax lost wheel was "a bit of a shock"

erratic. Apart from the opening, the rest was perfect."

Mr Lomax from Stockport, Greater Manchester, had received a written warning after an earlier incident involving drink in May, 1995. At an internal BBC appeal against his sacking, Mr Lomax had claimed problems from his divorce had upset him.

Sandra Horne, controller of BBC regional broadcasting, said that Stan Martin, deputy secretary of the Musician's Union, had told the appeal that hard-drinking was common. "Mr Martin said some principal players were taking beta blockers and others had to find other ways to deal with pressure. He said that there was a drinking culture among musicians and their bosses were aware of this."

Dismissing the claim of unfair dismissal yesterday, the tribunal chairman Michael Coles said: "We have considerable sympathy with this applicant. The action was at the top end of harshness but we do not consider it unfair."

Racing cars make a comeback in Goodwood classic

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

HISTORIC racing cars are to return to Goodwood, the West Sussex circuit where Stirling Moss once duelled with Fangio. Closed to racing for 30 years, Goodwood is planning to reopen in September, 1998, with a meeting for veteran sports cars. It will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first race.

The go-ahead was given by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, who decided not to order a planning inquiry into the scheme, even though it runs counter to the Sussex development plan. Chichester council, which controls planning in the area, voted 29-12 in September to accept the proposal, even though its environment committee said silenced cars would create "unacceptable noise levels".

The Earl of March and Kinross, who owns Goodwood, has promised to build earth barriers to limit the noise. He anticipates that the return to racing will create up to 68 full-time and 40 part-time jobs. Historic meetings will be limited to

five days spread over two weekends a year, although the track can be used for up to 260 other days a year for other motoring events.

"We just want a very limited programme for these old cars," he said. "Apart from those five days a year the track will be very much quieter than at present and there will be 100 totally silent days a year instead of the 30 required at present."

Objectors include the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the South Downs Conservation Board and the Sussex Wildlife Trust. Apart from the noise levels, they are concerned that events attracting crowds of over 20,000 could spoil the countryside, destroy wildlife habitats and make life in nearby villages intolerable.

Bob Trinder, chairman of the Environmental Protection Group formed to co-ordinate the campaign against the Goodwood proposals, said last night that objectors planned further moves to stop the meetings being held.



A sports car race at Goodwood in the 1950s

Angler hauls in five fish a minute

Continued from page 1

noutmen think it is ridiculous. *Alburnus alburnus* was once common in rivers in England and Wales, but is now found in abundance mainly in the Herefordshire Wye. It feeds close to the surface when the river is full and can then be caught in huge numbers. It is not considered worth eating and, like most coarse fish, is put back into the river.

The techniques for catching bleak in numbers were developed in mainland Europe. The

first great masters were the Italians, who used them to sweep the board in the 1976 World Championship in Bulgaria. Now continental methods are practised by a small but growing section of the match fishing fraternity here.

The rods the bleak men use are not traditional — they are short, ultra-light "whips" made of carbon fibre and two or three metres long. The line is fastened directly to the end and minute floats, weights and barbless hooks are attached to it. There is no reel.

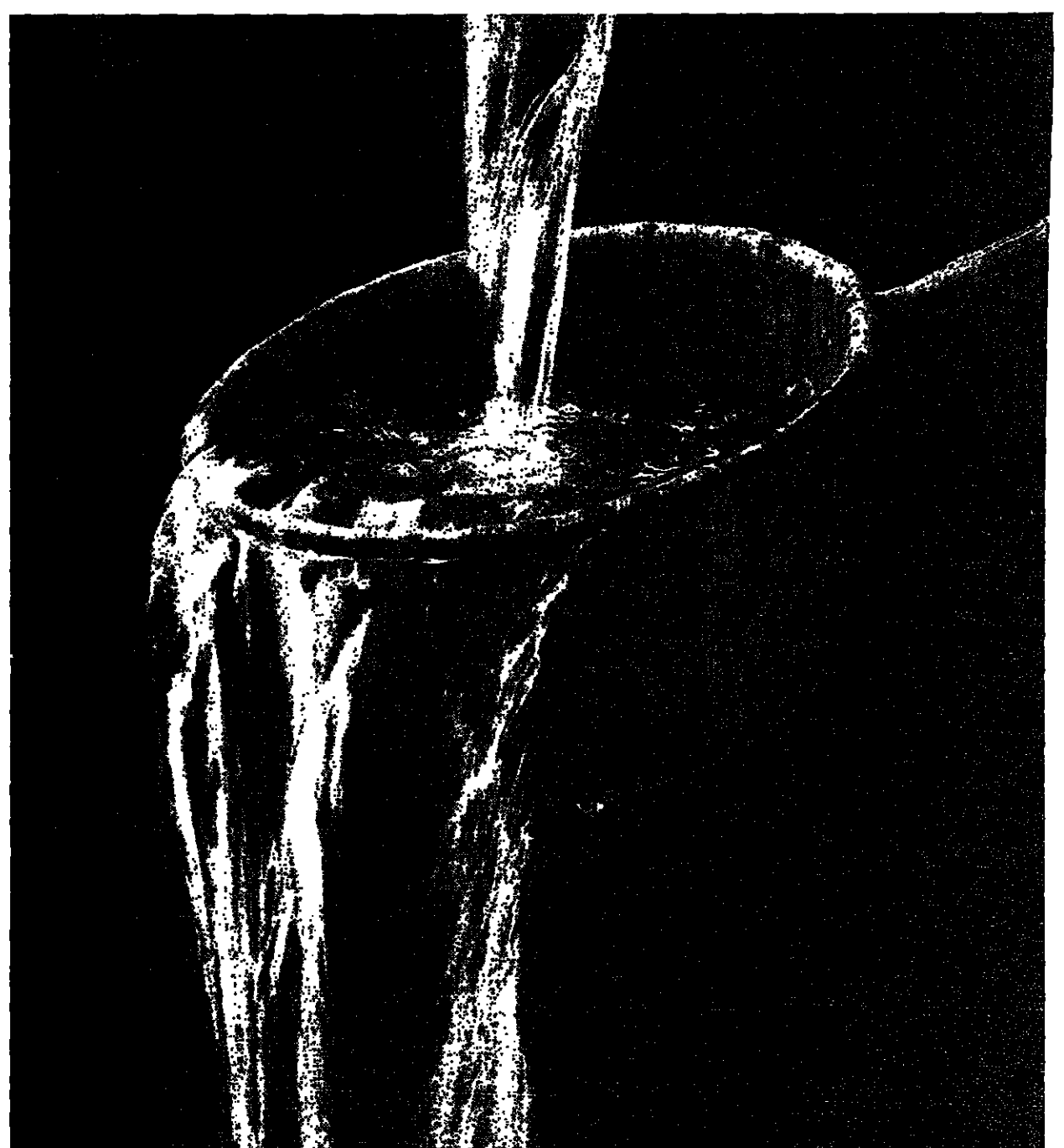
The fish are lured close in by groundbaiting and the hookbait is simply swung out among them. "Whip fishing is all about rhythm," Salter says.

"You have to practise and practise. When you are in business you have to be sure that every time you swing a fish in it is going to come to exactly the same spot by your shoulder. Your hand has to be there, waiting to catch it. Even before the fish touches the water in the keeper, your right hand has to have the bait back among the bleak and

your left hand has to be back by your shoulder again. It's like continuous saluting."

Salter prefers the top piece from a traditional old rod to carbon fibre. "It's perfect," he said. "It's really stiff. You can't afford anything too bendy because it might wobble when you are swinging a fish back and the fish might miss your hand. That would be a disaster. It could cost seconds. You can't afford that at this level. No way."

Leading article, page 23



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MPs mock Anon's Tribune vision of anti-Blair coup

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE left-wing weekly *Tribune* is planning to offer further column inches to Cassandra, the "senior" Labour MP who made a vitriolic attack on Tony Blair yesterday and predicted a plot to ditch him.

The trail at Westminster of the self-effacing scribe went hot and cold yesterday and Mark Seddon, *Tribune's* Editor, blocked all attempts to secure the name of the author. He or she would be writing regularly, Mr Seddon said, although not every week. As with the media's original Cassandra, in the *Daily Mirror*, the Tories would often be on the receiving end.

Mr Seddon, who admitted that he and his journal were completely out of sympathy with the Blair "project", said: "It says something about the way the leadership runs things that people feel they cannot put their name to things like this."

Most Labour MPs and leadership officials dismissed the article yesterday as the act of a maverick who had failed to prosper under Mr Blair. It was impossible to find anyone at Westminster who accepted

Cassandra's scenario of Labour ditching its leader within months of its first election victory for 23 years.

However, it was felt that he or she had identified a number of the issues that were worrying MPs as the election approached, such as tensions between members of the Shadow Cabinet, differences on taxation and Europe and the alienation of the trade unions.

The Labour Party has been soft-hearted towards its leaders. While the Tories have removed leaders once they have served their purpose, Labour has been prepared to stick with likely losers rather than force them out. The very idea that Mr Blair would be vulnerable so soon after breaking through stretches the credulity of most observers.

In any case, the constitutional hurdles to a challenge would appear almost insurmountable. Under party rules, in government there can be a leadership contest only if the party conference supports such a move by card vote.

Then a challenger would have to have the nominations, with

names, of 20 per cent of the parliamentary party.

The writer claimed: "Behind the façade of unity and discipline the reality is that Tony Blair's position as leader of the Labour Party is weaker than any leader in memory." Mr Blair, the column said, was out of step with MPs, even those who had backed him for the leadership, was in a minority in the Shadow Cabinet on central issues and had "squandered" the traditional support of the union barons.

This is Blair's weakness. He knows he can ignore his habitual [hard left] Campaign Group critics but is unaware of just how widespread is the dissatisfaction and outright anger at the style of his leadership and policies among those MPs who put him in the leadership," the column said.

"Starting with the anger over the choice of a school for his son and running up to the expensive irrelevance of the Road to the Manifesto I have never known Labour MPs to be so bitterly and personally critical of their leader."

However, the prediction that Mr Blair could become the "shortest-serving Prime Minister of this century", ousted by a "palace coup", drew laughter and ridicule.

The search for the culprit proved fruitless. The finger was pointed first at Brian Sedgemore, who contributes to *Tribune*, but he denied that the article was not by him, adding that it was "boringly written". Mr Sedgemore, along with other Labour dissenters in the frame who were contacted by *The Times*, also said he did not agree with Cassandra's conclusions: some, however, supported the attack on the leadership style.

Denzil Davies, a former minister, also mentioned as the possible author, told *The Times*: "Not me, gov. I always sign my articles." Backbenchers, struck by the wildly implausible nature of the scenario portrayed, also raised the possibility that the article had not been written by an MP at all.

Leading article, page 23

Blair tells Chirac of fears over currency

From Jill Sherman in Paris

TONY BLAIR gave the strongest indication yet that a Labour government would not join in the first wave of a single European currency as he spelt out a range of obstacles to monetary union.

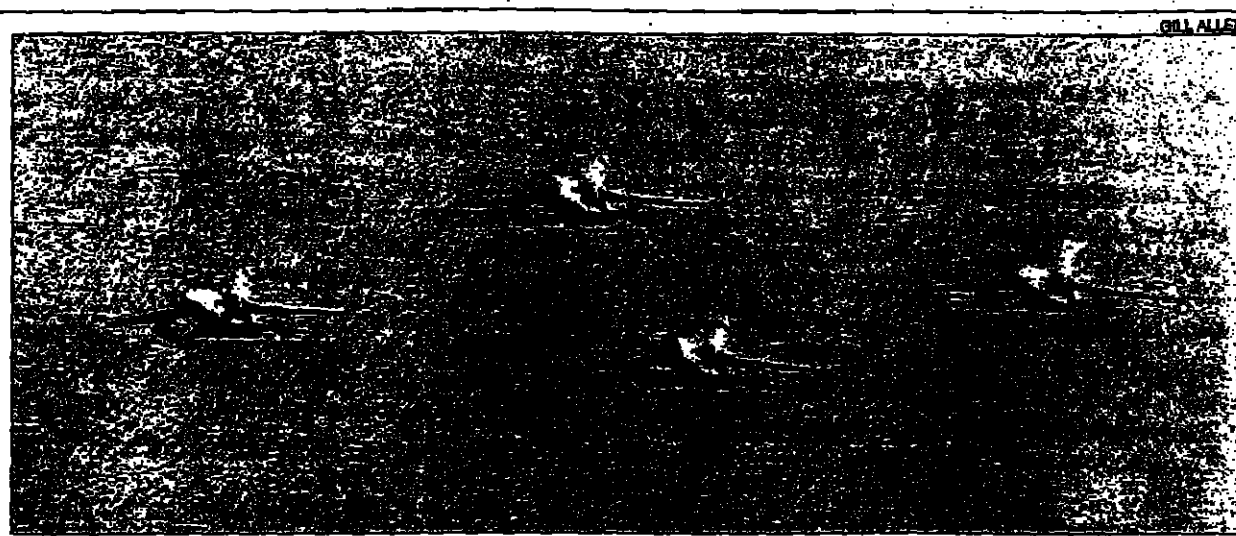
The Labour leader told President Chirac of France, however, that he had not closed off the option entirely. He also admitted that Labour faced huge problems over public opinion, which was becoming increasingly anti-Brussels.

Mr Blair told M Chirac that Labour supported a single currency in principle but stressed that problems over meeting the economic convergence criteria could stop Britain joining in 1999. "Our options are genuinely open,"

he told the President. "The option of joining is not closed off. But I will not hide there are difficulties to that."

After a meeting with both President Chirac and Alan Juppé, the French Prime Minister, Mr Blair told journalists that a Labour government would only sign up to a single currency if it was in the interests of the British people and if economic convergence was sustainable.

Mr Blair reiterated the message later in a speech to French businessmen. "We will need convincing that economic conditions will allow it [a single currency] to succeed," he said. "Until these issues are resolved we will keep all options genuinely open."



RAF Tornado F3s fly over Westminster Abbey watched, below left, by Lady Whittle, Sir Frank's widow



Tornados salute a soaring vision

THE man who gave the world the jet engine was honoured yesterday with a flypast over central London by a collection of new and old jet fighters. Four RAF Tornado F3s followed by two privately owned Meteors thundered low over Westminster Abbey after a thanksgiving service there for Sir Frank Whittle.

Sir Frank, who died in August aged 89, became the father of high-speed air travel when he invented the jet in 1930. But the innovation was

greeted with a lack of enthusiasm and it was only when the Air Ministry discovered Germany's wartime interest that it backed Sir Frank.

Meteor jet fighters entered service in 1944 and Sir Frank always maintained they could have played a pivotal role years earlier if his invention had been supported from the outset.

The two Meteors taking part in the flypast are owned by Martin Baker, the company that produced ejection seats for most of the world's

air forces. During the service Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, said: "It is given to few people, and even fewer in their own lifetime, to open up new horizons for their fellow human beings."

"This is what Frank Whittle did by paving the way for popular air travel on a scale that few people thought possible at the time. This practical realisation of a soaring vision is surely the very essence of genius."

Service, page 24



Sir Frank Whittle

Mayhew welcomes Sinn Fein approach

By Nicholas Watt

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW breathed new life into the Northern Ireland peace process yesterday when he made his most conciliatory speech about Sinn Fein since the collapse of the IRA ceasefire.

In a wide-ranging address to business leaders in Manchester, the Northern Ireland Secretary made clear that ministers would respond favourably to a renewed IRA truce. Sir Patrick also hinted that the gap between Sinn Fein and the Government over the terms for a new ceasefire is narrowing when he welcomed a speech by Martin McGuinness, the leading republican, delivered on Thursday night.

Sir Patrick's speech to the Manchester Luncheon Club — five months to the day after an IRA bomb devastated the city centre — comes amid intensive efforts to restore the IRA ceasefire. John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, has been shouting between Gerry Adams and British ministers.

Mr Hume and Irish Government sources last night welcomed Sir Patrick's comments. Nationalists were also encouraged. Mr McGuinness had called for inclusive talks and for Britain to lift preconditions on Sinn Fein's entry into the negotiations, most notably the demand that the IRA must disarm during discussions.

Sir Patrick said he agreed "wholeheartedly" with Mr McGuinness that negotiations were the only way forward, but he insisted that the IRA would have to restore its ceasefire before Sinn Fein could join the talks. "That must mean demonstrably repudiating the bomb and the bullet and establishing a definitive commitment to peaceful methods."

The Northern Ireland Secretary noted Mr McGuinness's comments that the issue of arms would have to be addressed to the satisfaction of all parties at the talks.

Underlining the Government's favourable response, he said: "Martin McGuinness says that if the conflict is to be ended permanently, and I note his use of that word, all should embrace the process in good faith... That is our approach, building on the rocks of democracy and consent."

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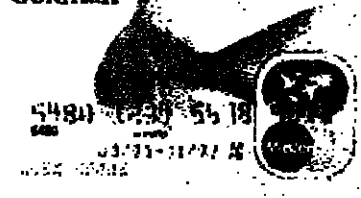
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as 'flexible', allow you to do this,
but charge you through the nose
for the privilege. Some penalise
you even if you want to increase
your payments. It's a bit like a bank
advertising free banking and then charging
you if a cheque bounces.

Such advertising is just to lure you in.

For years the pension industry has got
away with not telling you how much of your
money they cream off in charges.

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which forces them to tell you. But there is a
loophole. The company is entitled to assume
that you will stick rigidly to your initial

arrangements. If you alter them, you get nailed
with charges.

Virgin Direct refuses to do this. Our
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decrease the amount you save
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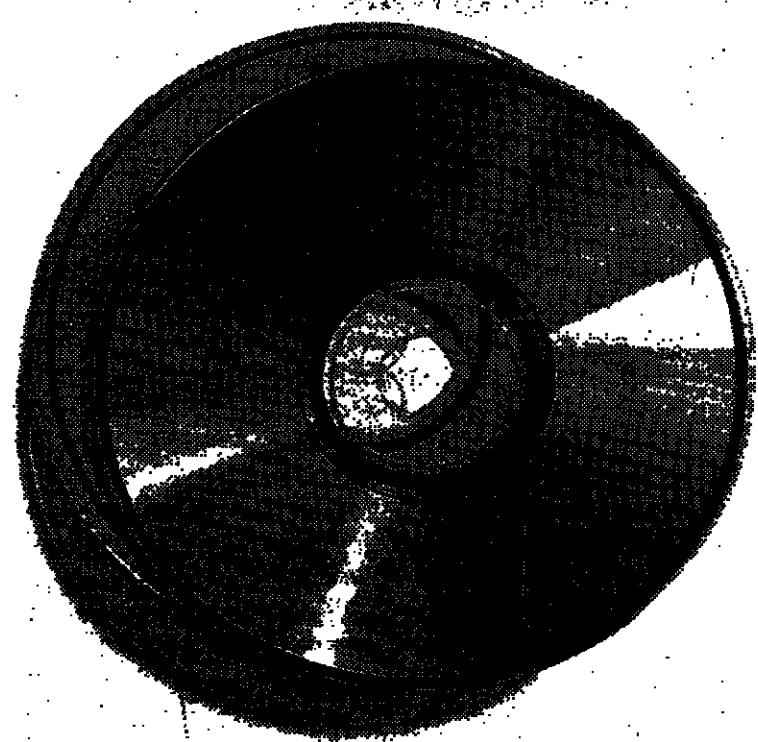
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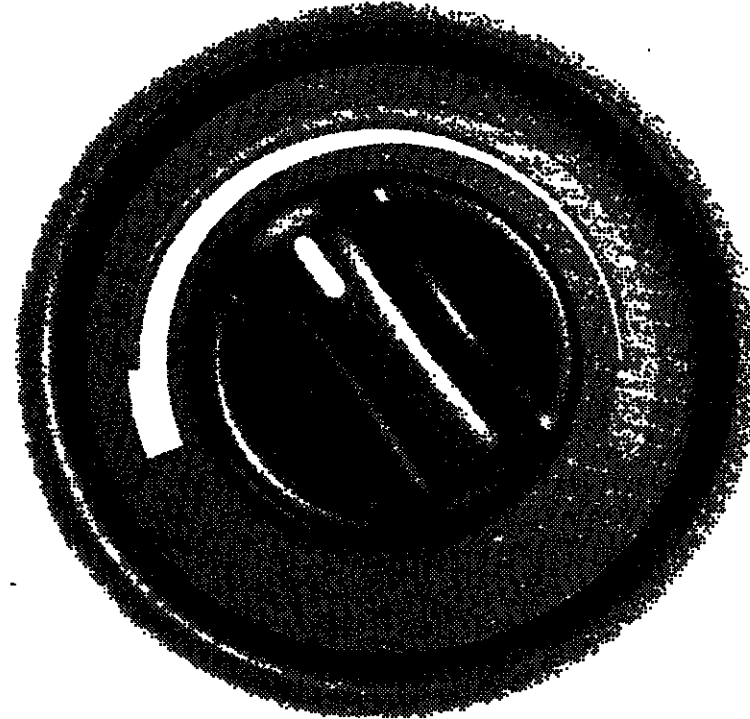
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'Why was schizophrenic freed to kill my father?'

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE family of a man stabbed to death in the street by a schizophrenic with a history of violence is demanding an inquiry into his release from mental hospital five months earlier. Matthew Hooper stabbed Jack Trinder, a second cousin of the late comic, Tommy Trinder, 21 times in the chest.

The dead man's daughter, Vikki Bannion, speaking after Hooper was sent to Broadmoor indefinitely, said: "How many more times does this have to happen before something is done to take the dangerously mentally ill off the street? Does it need an MP's relative to be killed before anything changes?"

Mr Trinder, 55, a part-time scaffolder, was attacked as he left his local public house in Peckham, southeast London, early last Christmas Day morning.

Hooper had been admitted to the nearby Maudsley Hospital some eight months earlier and discharged in July. He had convictions dating back to 1981, some of them for violence: a short time before he

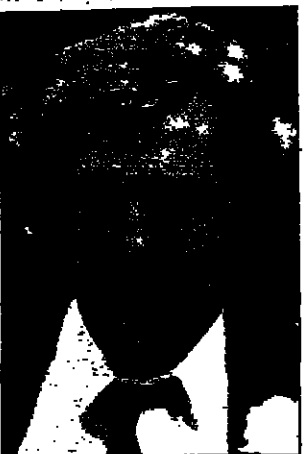


Vikki Bannion is demanding an inquiry into events that led to the death of her father, Jack Trinder

was admitted he had stabbed his brother and attacked his elderly mother, Myrie. After leaving hospital, he was moved by social services into a flat in East Dulwich.

Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, told the Old Bailey that less than a month before Mr Trinder's death, Hooper had been arrested for possessing a lock knife in his car. After the unprovoked stabbing of Mr Trinder, he had shown a "degree of cunning" in trying to cover his tracks: he had set fire to his old Ford Fiesta, which had been seen by witnesses, grown a beard and moved in to a friend's flat.

Judge Hawkins, QC, told Hooper: "There was no possible reason for your attack on the unfortunate Mr Trinder." For the protection of the public he ordered that Hooper be detained in Broadmoor without limit of time. Hooper, diagnosed as a paranoid



schizophrenic, had denied murder but admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

After the case, Mrs Bannion, who was accompanied by her mother Barbara and brother Lee, said the family would be pressing for an inquiry. "They let him out of hospital. Any sane person would look at what he had done in the past and say that was not a safe thing to do. Any sane person must ask why this keeps happening. It has happened before and it will go on happening until mental health care is properly funded."

In a statement yesterday, the Maudsley Hospital, part of the Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust, said an internal inquiry had been held into the handling of Hooper's case. It concluded that his care had been "fully in line with trust and government policy on community care".

The hospital, which extended its deepest sympathy to Mr Trinder's family, had been in regular contact with Hooper after he was discharged. An inquiry was now planned by the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority.



Matthew Hooper is driven from the Old Bailey yesterday to a life in Broadmoor

Director took cash to pay for gambling

A COMPANY director who led a lavish lifestyle with thousands of pounds milked from her employers was jailed for two years yesterday.

Linda Lines, 43, took £137,000 over a 30-month period and spent it on holidays abroad and gambling in Las Vegas casinos, Jeremy Donne, for the prosecution, told the Old Bailey.

Lines, a company secretary who earned £26,000 a year, was tempted after being given sole responsibility for looking after the books at the Hanover Trustee Investment Company. The company dealt with investments and pensions and worked closely with the stock-brokers Charles Stanley, the court was told.

Lines took money from the company by writing cheques to herself and her credit card companies. To cover the mounting losses, she sent bogus accounts to Charles Stanley asking for payments. Lines, a mother of two from Crouch End, north London, admitted false accounting and deception between 1993 and last year.

Pilot error caused fatal Nimrod crash

BY A STAFF REPORTER

PILOT error was blamed yesterday for the crash last year of an RAF Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft during a flying display in Canada. All seven crew members died instantly.

The inquiry into the crash, in September 1995, concluded that Flight Lieutenant Dom Gilbert, 31, altered a display manoeuvre, causing the jet engines to stall. The aircraft was too low to be able to restart its engines and careened into Lake Ontario.

A review of Nimrod display flying has now been carried out. Future displays will be carried out by a single crew made up of instructors with improved training.

The Nimrod, in service with the RAF since 1969 and due to undergo modernisation, was seen to dip suddenly towards the lake while making a climbing turn at the Canadian

National Exhibition. Four months earlier, a Nimrod R1 crashlanded in the Moray Firth and the crew was able to escape in a lifeboat.

The inquiry into the Canadian crash disclosed that Flt Lt Gilbert, one of three Nimrod display pilots, was near the end of his first season, in which he had successfully flown 13 displays as well as several practice flights.

All was well until the aircraft entered its final manoeuvre and climbed past 950ft. Engine power was cut almost to idle and the speed dropped quickly to 122 knots, well below the recommended 150 knots, and the aircraft stalled and fell. The wreckage and the bodies of the crew, from 120 Squadron at the Nimrod base at RAF Kinloss in Grampian, were found in the lake by divers.

The all-new Toyota Camry** has more luxury specifications*** yet costs less*** than any other car**** in its class*****



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*No, we haven't just changed the design of the ash-tray and stuck a light in the glove compartment. When we say new, we mean new. New styling as you can see, new interior, new everything. **OK, apart from the name. ***So now you're thinking "this is where they say more specifications in the headline and then try to sneak out of it down here in the small print." aren't you? Well, as a matter of fact, you're wrong. The Camry really does have more specs than Elton John: ABS, climate-control air-conditioning, electric windows, sun-roof, and mirrors and lots more we could mention. All right then will mention: RDS stereo cassette, remote alarm/immobiliser, foglamps, wood-grain trim, twin airbags and, on the 2.2 Camry Sport, Connolly leather seats, body styling package and 17" alloy wheels. Whatever happened to trust, by the way? ****You're not half a suspicious lot. But just so it's clear, the Camry V6, (still spec'd up to the eyeballs as per the footnote above mind you) is nearly four thousand pounds cheaper than the otherwise excellent Vauxhall Omega CDX, and over ten thousand pounds cheaper (!) than a Mercedes E230 Classic, to take two totally random (but comparably specified) examples. ***** (car), sb. Wheeled vehicle. b. = MOTOR CAR. ***** There are three new Camry models in all. The 2.2 (£19,599), the V6 (£24,609) and from January, the 2.2 Camry Sport shown above, which comes in at £23,175, on the road - excluding rear seat belts. Only joking, they're included, they're included. Call 0800 777 555 and order one.

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Two lives in the margins, by Graham Greene the bastard



Graham Greene, 1904-91

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH AND CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

A SERIES of jotted notes in the margins of books once owned by Graham Greene provide a poignant insight into his friendship with Evelyn Waugh.

The annotated books and a collection of letters, to be sold by Sotheby's on December 16, reveal how two of this century's greatest English men of letters — both Catholic converts — looked to each other for guidance in their work and comfort in their private lives.

The rare books, which were either owned by or associated with Greene, along with extensive correspondence from him, have been collected by a New York real-estate broker, Clint Smullyan, over 25 years. The collection, which features first editions from the Twenties and Thirties, most inscribed by the author, is expected to fetch about

£270,000. One note by Greene, at the back of a proof copy of Christopher Sykes's biography of Waugh, describes the latter's loneliness. It reads: "It's hatred of the telephone. One could never ring him up. It was an intrusion on his privacy. A curious contradiction: when I lived in Albany he would turn up without warning. . . . It was a period in my life when more than usually I disliked the unexpected visitor. And yet I never had the heart in his case to complain. He must be very lonely, I would think, if he came to me."

Greene recalls finding solace during a five-day stay at Waugh's house in Somerset with just his friend and a bottle of whisky for company. "My love affair was not making me happy. His silent sympathy."

The two had met at Oxford in the 1920s but became close only during

the post-war controversies over Greene's Catholic novels. He sent his books to Waugh before publication and a copy of *The End of the Affair*, which was based on Greene's relationship with Catherine Walton, is heavily annotated. In particular, Waugh toned down what he regarded as over-ripe language.

The two writers did not have a light-hearted relationship. "Only on one occasion around 1945 did I have a drunken carousing with E. We both had good heads," Greene records in the Sykes biography. Greene's forthright opinions appear in another, scornful, annotation where Sykes describes Waugh's death "in the back parts" of the house. "E died in the lavatory — what's wrong with that? So did my father," writes Greene.

The agonies Greene endured during the writing process are clearly outlined in his correspondence with

the Indian writer R.K. Narayan. In one letter Greene records how he was daunted by the risks he was taking with his latest book. He felt "horribly sterile — my only idea is one of frightening difficulty and hazard. When one has a family to support one hates to try something new." The book he was referring to was *Brighton Rock*. Later he talks of "a rather hack job, an Entertainment called *Our Man in Havana*, I am getting too old to boil the pot."

Also included in the sale is correspondence with the American journalist Gloria Emerson, who interviewed him for *Rolling Stone*. He writes to her of a gift she sent, "I still haven't opened the 94 per cent gin. Sheer cowardice. I shall have to drink it one day if only to use the bottle as a flower vase." A year later the gin is satisfactorily finished and after two years more: "I'd love some more of that green gin. It was a killer

but I liked it." Whether drinking or not, he voiced some outlandish opinions. "There are two politicians whom I detest in the world today — one is Reagan and the other is Pope John Paul. People tried to kill both of them and alas failed."

A glimpse of the strains of carrying on affairs simultaneously with the rich and glamorous Catherine Walton and his first mistress, the penniless book illustrator Dorothy Glover, is seen in his inscription in a copy of *Nineteen Stories*: "For Dorothy Glover with so much love over so many years, 1939-1947, from Graham Greene the bastard."

Unlike Greene's personal papers, which were bought by Boston College, the current owner wants this collection broken up. "Little is on the market, so I hope that these can churn round again — while I sit at the back and weep," said Mr Smullyan.



Evelyn Waugh, 1903-66

Why Amy Johnson took flight to escape fame

BY JOHN VINCENT

AMY JOHNSON, Britain's most famous woman pilot, was so disturbed by the publicity that greeted her exploits that she considered her career in this country to be ruined and pleaded to be "left in peace to fly".

Her feelings are disclosed in a previously unseen letter that forms part of an extraordinary archive of material relating to Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, one of the world's true pioneers of powered flight. It includes his aviator's licence, trophies, scrapbooks and correspondence.

In a two-page letter dated September 19, 1930, four months after she became a national heroine for her record-breaking solo flight to

Australia, Miss Johnson tells Sir Geoffrey: "Publicity would in time drive me insane, and I'm therefore taking the cowardly action of running away from it. I'm looking forward to having my new Puss Moth and then I hope to be off on my travels again."

"There are not many people in the aviation world who understand my position and I feel that the unwanted and overdone publicity I have received has just about ruined any aviation career I might have had in this country. My one desire is to be left alone in peace to fly," Johnson died in an aircraft crash in 1941.

Sotheby's is offering the de Havilland archive at separate auctions at its Billingshurst, West Sussex, saleroom on November 23 and 28. Stephen Maycock, aviation specialist, said yesterday: "It's quite a startling letter. She had just completed an incredible feat of pioneering flying and one would have imagined she would have been prepared for the furore that followed. This letter shows she did not expect it and found the whole experience quite shattering."

The de Havilland archive, being sold by a private collector, is expected to fetch up to £40,000. A 1911 aviator's licence is estimated at up to £2,000; an England to Australia air race trophy from 1934 at £6,000; and the King's Cup for the 1933 round England race at £10,000. De Havilland's medals and awards, together with scrapbooks, are expected to fetch up to £12,000.

Sir Geoffrey's De Havilland Aircraft Company produced, among other legendary aircraft, the Tiger Moth, the Mosquito and the Comet, the first jet-powered airliner. A quiet, thoughtful man who shunned the limelight, he was made a CBE in 1934 and knighted in January 1944. Three years before his death in 1965 his lifelong contribution to aviation was acknowledged with the Order of Merit.



Johnson about to set off for Australia on May 5, 1930



The ring was clearly visible on the right hand in this 1611 portrait of Thomas Anguise

Expert unearths secrets of ring lost for 300 years

BY A STAFF REPORTER

WHEN a landowner stumbled on a gold signet ring lying in a Norfolk field he was intrigued by the curious coat of arms. But when he examined the ring closely the mystery deepened: he discovered that the bezel bearing the coat of arms swivelled to reveal a skull on the reverse side.

The ring's new owner — who wishes to remain anonymous — took his find to Christie's, where Charles Bingham-Newland set about tracing its history. He found that the arms — a serpent's crest and foliage in an elaborate border — belonged to 17th-century Mayor of Norwich.

Further detective work led Mr Bingham-Newland to Blackfriars Hall, Norwich, where he found a portrait of Thomas Anguise — and there on the index finger of the right hand was the ring, which had lain lost for three centuries in a field near Foulsham, where Anguise lived. With the help of the Norwich Castle Museum, more of Anguise's story emerged. He was a cloth dealer in Norwich, becoming an alderman in 1595, sheriff in 1596 and Lord Mayor in 1611. In 1567, aged 29, he had

married Elizabeth Thurstone. Although she bore him nine sons and three daughters, few survived childhood and it is thought that their fates explained the significance of the skull on the ring.

Anguise's line appears to have got no further than the 19th century: the last descendant is believed to have been Catherine Anguise, who once owned the portrait of her ancestor and died in 1837. A memorial to Thomas Anguise is in St George's Church, Norwich and his memory remains alive in the Anguise's Educational Foundation. The ring goes on sale at Christie's in London on December 12, and is expected to fetch up to £8,000.



The ring, found in a field

THE TIMES

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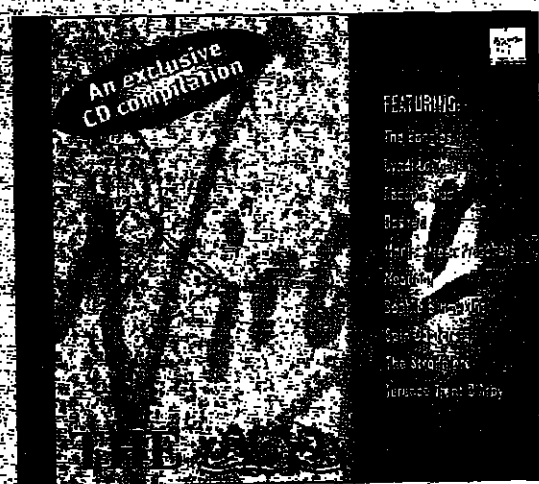
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Society must uphold human dignity and generosity of spirit

MY TEENAGE years were often marked by rows with my father, when I argued vehemently that he should give shelter to homeless men in our underused front room. He protested that his first duty was to his family's safety.

The two key principles of Catholic social teaching address this dilemma. We are held by the duty of solidarity. The poor are not someone else's problem: they are our brothers and sisters. Yet we must also recognise that, according to the principle of subsidiarity, some tasks can best, or even only, be carried out at a particular level

in society. A family usually cannot care for the homeless in the way I suggested. But it can support the initiatives of, say, local authority, or voluntary bodies. The duty to ensure that help is given to those in need rests with individuals, local communities and the State.

The Common Good, the document published recently by the Roman Catholic bishops, puts forward a way of thinking about our common aims in society founded on the dignity of the human person. It supports the creation of opportunities for individuals to grow in self-reliance

and generosity: it argues in favour of trade unions, to encourage partnership and to protect individual rights; it protests strongly against the destruction of human life in the womb, which contributes so much to the blunting of our social conscience. And the document contains a warning to election candidates: contempt for those who uphold the sacredness of human life will be deeply unacceptable to Catholics.

A single appeal lies at the heart of the document: "Public life needs rescuing from utilitarian expediency and the pursuit of self-

Credo

The Right Rev
Vincent Nichols

interest." This may seem idealistic and unrealistic. But the alternative is a society at risk of becoming ever more dehumanised, which gives priority to "technology over ethics, things over persons, and matter over spirit".

The bishops' appeal is pro-

foundly spiritual, for there is an unease in Britain today, stemming from a spiritual vacuum, or at least a disorientation. How do we answer questions about the enduring purpose of our existence and the values which will bring us lasting satisfaction? Or must we simply pursue our pleasure, elevated at times, puzzlingly, by the experience of generous love or compassion?

This appeal cannot be issued in abstract terms. It has to be related to the realities of our common life. May I give two examples? There is, rightly, a call for less violence to

be shown in the media. Yet the availability of such material is related to the deregulation of the media industry. Left to themselves, market forces will produce both good and evil effects. The result is a steady supply of cheap "video nasties". To improve standards will inevitably require some restriction on the free market. How this is best achieved is for politicians to work out. That is what makes politics both a difficult task and, when motivated by a search for the common good, a noble calling.

At each point, then, this appeal

asks that we go beyond expediency and self-interest. Generosity of spirit is essential in fashioning a society which is pleasant to live in. Such generosity is already present in our society but insufficiently encouraged and rewarded. For many, this appeal to human dignity and the common good is rooted in faith in God. Working out the implications for our common life is an imperative of faith. There is no alternative.

□ The Right Rev Vincent Nichols is Roman Catholic Bishop in North London.

Bishops admit that some priests do not keep vow of celibacy

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ROMAN Catholic bishops yesterday made an unprecedented admission to the Pope that not all their priests were succeeding in keeping their vows of celibacy. In a statement to Pope John Paul II, the bishops of England and Wales said: "We are conscious of shortcomings in the living out of the obligations of priestly celibacy of our dioceses."

The admission is surprising given that, although the Church has suffered two recent blows regarding celibacy with the much-publicised cases of Dr Eamonn Casey and the former bishop Roderick Wright, neither was in England or Wales. Insiders insist that when the priests held their recent national conference, the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, the Pope's ambassador to the Court of St James, refused to discuss celibacy. At a private meeting at the conference in Birmingham he dismissed the issue because he considered it was not a problem, according to a source.

However, the church was shocked this week by the case of Fr Adrian McLeish, the Durham priest jailed for six years for indecently assaulting

the sons of parishioners. Police discovered a large collection of Internet paedophile pornography when they raided his presbytery.

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, is looking into allegations by a woman married to a former priest that a number of clergy in a religious order are involved in relationships with women.

However, in their message to the Pope, sent to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, the bishops do not refer specifically to the scandals. Instead, they send him their greetings and say: "We appreciate your constant encouragement and your steadfast upholding of the value of celibate chastity as normative for the ordained priesthood. This is indeed a calling which is not easily understood by our contemporaries and yet it is a witness sorely needed in our society."

Although the Pope has recently granted dispensation for married former Anglicans to be ordained Catholic priests, the bishops say: "We also appreciate your insistence that when considering the institution of the ordained ministry the primary responsibility of the church is that of absolute fidelity to the mind and practice of Christ."

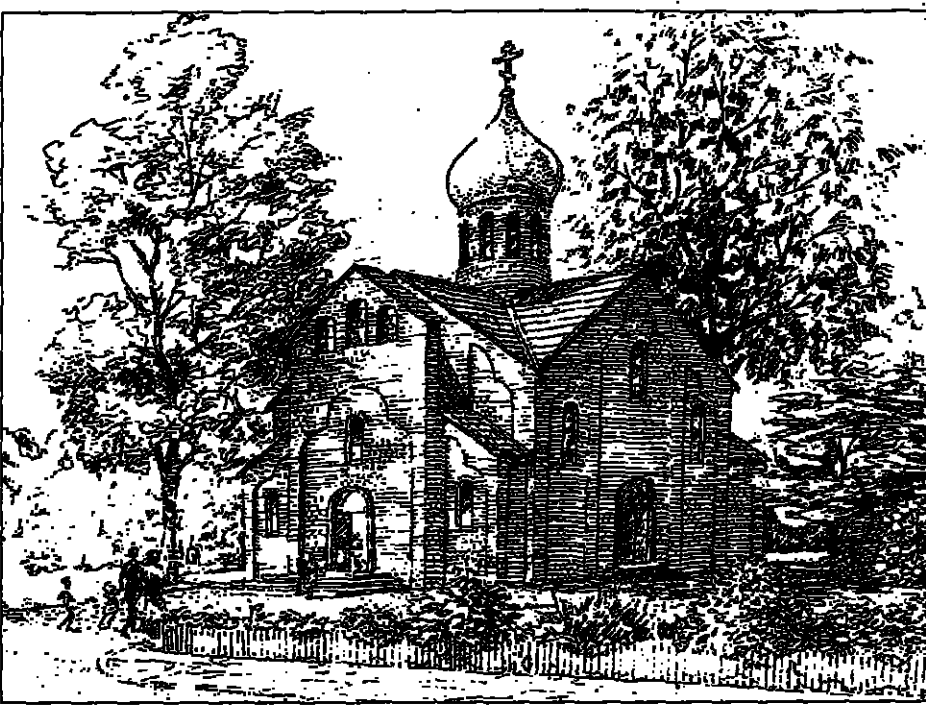
The bishops refer also to abortion: "The prevalence of abortion in our countries is a shameful scandal. We assure you of our determination to work to create those conditions in which the repeal of abortion legislation will be increasingly recognised as a moral obligation."

Mgr Arthur Roche, general secretary of the bishops' conference, said the admission that clergy were breaking their celibacy vows would not be a surprise to the Pope. He said: "The Pope and the bishops of England and Wales are

realists. I have read in various publications the difficulties of priests as well as bishops.

"Our statement is a simple statement of fact, and a very laudable fact from our point of view, that we do very much see priestly celibacy as being a normative part of the ordained ministry. It is the endeavour of every priest to remain as close as he can in an authentic way to the life of Christ."

At your service.
Weekend, page 14



A dome from home: how the planned Russian Orthodox cathedral will look

Prince supports landmark of faith

THE Prince of Wales has given financial and spiritual support to plans to erect Britain's first purpose-built cathedral for the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The cathedral, for a church until recently known as the Russian Orthodox Church in Exile, will be in the Russian Pskov style, with its dramatic cupola visible from the M4 Chiswick flyover.

The Prince, who has said that he would wish to be known as "defender of faith" rather than the faith, was also a keen supporter of the Hindu community's new, multi-pin-nacled temple in Neasden, where he made a highly publicised visit. Work on the latest religious landmark is

expected to begin in the spring. More than £400,000 has been raised and an application has been made to the Millennium Fund.

In a letter to Count Tolstoy, chairman of the fundraising appeal, the Prince wrote: "I was fascinated to hear of your plans for what is clearly a very exciting project. I do wish you and all the congregation well in your efforts and I am sending you a small donation as a token of my best wishes."

Since the revolution, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad has been separate from the Russian Orthodox Church, which has a cathedral, a former Anglican church, in Finsbury Gardens, southwest London.



Barbarito: refused to discuss celibacy

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سكرا من الامم

Peking plays at democracy over choice of colony council

SEVEN months before Hong Kong's return to China the atmosphere of the Great Hall of the People was evoked in the colony yesterday.

The cream of the business community was gathered at the first meeting of the selection committee which will elect both Peking's chief executive to succeed Chris Patten, the Governor, and the 60 members of a Provisional Legislative Council, which will replace the Legislative Council elected last year.

Most of those picked to attend yesterday will play roles in the post-1997 administration and fell quickly into Peking's way of doing things, sitting silently at the spectacle unfolded beneath a large, red spotlight seal of the People's Republic of China. Obsequiously, they supported Peking's choice for the post of chief executive.

Next month the group will choose a second legislative council and from January 1, Hong Kong will have parallel governments, with some members sitting on both councils and debating conflicting legislation.

Yesterday's meeting was held in a vast convention centre where usually international toymakers, jewellers and fast-food manufacturers exhibit their wares. Row after row of tightly-packed tables — set with white cloths, drinks and writing materials — stretched from one side



HONG KONG COUNTDOWN

of the hall to the other and almost its entire length. At the front was a raised dais. Behind it was the red seal with its large gold star and five smaller ones, each representing the main social classes, such as "the national bourgeoisie".

Hundreds of police patrolled outside the building and dozens of plainclothes security men stood inside. Mr Patten is rarely accompanied by more than a handful of bodyguards.

The 400 delegates, all from Hong Kong and picked by

Jonathan Mirsky watches the hushed selection of the new pro-China ruling class

Peking, included the tycoons who control most of the colony's wealth, a few Buddhist monks, Sir David Akers-Jones, who has acted as Governor and is now firmly in Peking's camp, and two members of Mr Patten's Executive Council, the inner cabinet, who are prepared to vote for the Provisional Legislative Council which Mr Patten and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, insist will have no legal standing. There was also a sprinkling of members of the present Legislative Council.

Court turns down Wang's appeal

Peking: Wang Dan, the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy leader jailed for 11 years for plotting to overthrow the Chinese Government, was given no chance to speak yesterday when a court here considered his appeal. In less than ten minutes, it was rejected. His mother, Wang Lingyun, said that only the judge spoke, to uphold the October 30 decision. (AP)



After a hush, the podium filed onto the dais, led by Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, and Lu Ping, the head of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau affairs office. Mr Qian was paying his first official visit but snubbed Mr Patten, as do all visiting dignitaries from Peking.

There followed opening remarks in the around style favoured in Peking, and then Mr Qian and Mr Lu spoke. Not long ago, Mr Qian, a supposed moderate in the Chinese leadership, issued a warning that after 1997 there could be no more meetings in Hong Kong to commemorate the Tiananmen Square crackdown, nor could the press criticise China's leaders personally. Mr Lu has often said much the same thing.

Mr Qian had been greeted by protesters on his arrival in the colony. Police scuffled with about 100 demonstrators led by members of the Legislative Council when they blocked access to the convention centre, where Britain will formally return Hong Kong to China in 28 days' time.

About 30 police surrounded a handful of student activists and herded them towards barricades where other protesters were sequestered. Many had spent the night on a protest fast outside the building.

Inside the hall, Mr Qian told the 400 delegates that this

was the beginning of real democracy in Hong Kong, and denied that the choice of chief executive had been pre-ordained in Peking. Mr Lu explained how the chief executive and the Provisional Legislative Council would be selected.

Both speeches were punctuated by the subtly orchestrated bursts of applause that regularly echo through Peking's Great Hall. In the afternoon, the delegates indicated by their preliminary votes that Tung Chi-hwa, the shipping magnate whom President Jiang Zemin had gone out of his way to greet in January, will be Hong Kong's next chief executive.

The former Chief Justice, T. L. Yang — favoured by most Hong Kong residents — and Peter Woo, a rich entrepreneur, both scraped through to the next round. Simon Li, a retired High Court judge, was dropped. As signalled by President Jiang, Mr Tung will be elected in a second vote on December 11.

The occasion demonstrated how easily Hong Kong's famously individualistic nobles — who in crowds are chatty, genial, and in constant motion — can be made to sit in silence, applaud on cue, and insist after the vote that each had obeyed his conscience. The same claims are common in the National People's Congress after it rubber-stamps decisions.



Hong Kong police lead away a demonstrator against the meeting held by Qian Qichen

'Racist' executives cost Texaco dear

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

TEXACO, the oil company, is struggling to clear its corporate name after allegedly racist remarks were made by two of its executives.

Court documents accuse two managers of laughing over the word "nigger" and of lampooning the African-American end-of-year festival known as Kwanzaa.

The episode has sent Texaco into a major damage-limitation exercise and has generated controversy across the United States, with calls by black politicians to boycott Texaco's petrol stations. The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People has urged investors to drop Texaco stock.

The basis of the controversy is a tape recording of remarks made in 1994 by the two white executives, Richard Lundwall, a finance manager who has since left Texaco, and Robert Ulrich, former company treasurer. In the indiscreet recording they appear to be discussing the number of public holidays employees are

entitled to take. Mr Lundwall appears to say: "Now we have two friggin' national anthems." Mr Ulrich replies: "I'm still having trouble with Hanukkah [the Jewish festival]. Now we have Kwanzaa... [expletive]... niggers, they [expletive] all over us with this."

Meanwhile, it was reported yesterday that court documents allege that a Texaco company lawyer tried to order the destruction of evidence related to the incident.

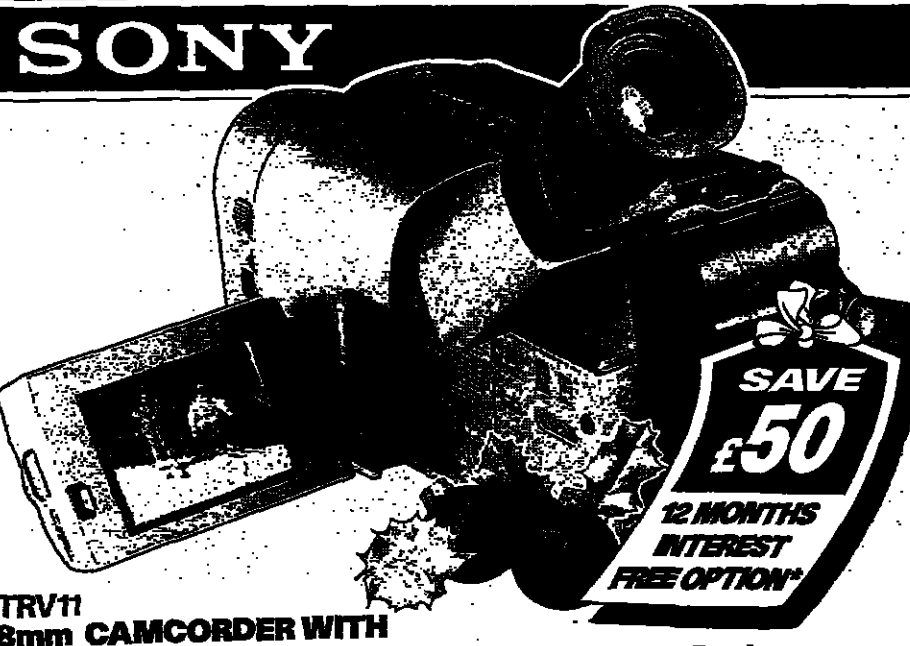
The matter has cost Texaco dear. Its public image has taken a terrible battering, with black leaders chopping up Texaco credit cards on television and phone-in programmes reflecting widespread agitation about the alleged racism.

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Rwanda calls on UN to disband relief force

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

AS REFUGEES in their hundreds of thousands poured into Rwanda last night, the Rwandan Government said there was no longer any need for the multinational force being prepared by Britain and other countries under a United Nations mandate.

Gideon Kayinamuna, the Rwandan Ambassador to the UN, said the exodus of refugees from the Mugunga camp made the proposed multinational force unnecessary. He suggested that Rwanda might no longer be ready to co-operate with the force, which plans to establish supply lines across the country and establish an office in the capital, Kigali.

"The mandate of that force is no longer relevant because of the unfolding positive developments," Mr Kayinamuna said. "The much talked-about humanitarian tragedy of the Rwandan refugees is now coming to an end. The international community is now mobilising resources, large amounts of money. We want

MANDATE

that money spent in Rwanda in terms of providing hospitals and medicine, resettling refugees, rather than putting it into military columns."

Zaire said yesterday that it would wage war on Burundi and Rwanda to defend its territory, which it said had been violated in the east by its two neighbouring states. "We

‘The much talked-about human tragedy of the Rwandan refugees is now coming to an end’

are determined to wage a total war. We have the means," Lokondo Yoka, Zaire's Deputy Foreign Minister, said on a visit to Belgium.

He said the towns of Uvira, Goma and Bukavu had been occupied by Burundian and Rwandan forces for almost two weeks. "The Banyamulenge, a so-called ethnic group, are just refugees from Rwanda," he said, referring to

the rebel group which played a key role in capturing the towns. The multinational force sent to create safe corridors for humanitarian aid to refugees would be tolerated on Zairean soil only so long as it did not offer protection to Rwandans or Burundians.

The sudden return of hundreds of thousands of Rwandans caught the international community by surprise. Western diplomats said the Hutu

to facilitate their voluntary repatriation. The proposal also called for the creation of a UN peacekeeping mission to replace the multinational force in four months' time.

Canada said the multinational operation was "not intended to interfere with the balance of military forces in the area, nor to support the re-establishment of camps in which armed elements are able to operate".

Security Council diplomats noted that even if the bulk of the refugees in the Goma area were returning to their homes in Rwanda, other refugees remained in eastern Zaire.

One Western official said the changes on the ground could be taken into account at planning meetings in Stuttgart next week. Britain is asking that its 3,500-man contingent control Bukavu airport, in the South Kivu area, where there has been no mass return of refugees.

Simon Jenkins, page 21
Leading article and letters, page 22
Ogata interview, Magazine, page 57



A Hutu cries over the body of his wife as refugees stream out of the Mugunga camp, heading for Rwanda

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'Dear God, we are about to die. Have pity on our souls'

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

HARROWING details have emerged from Zaire of the cold-blooded murder of four Spanish priests by a band of Hutu militiamen.

The priests, who belonged to the small Marist order, were hacked, shot and beaten to death at the Nyamirangwe settlement in Bugobe, six miles from Bukavu, 16 days ago. News of their deaths did not reach the outside world until last week.

The tragedy unfolded on October 31, shortly after the priests' Zairean staff escaped to safety in the settlement's only vehicle. The four missionaries, each of whom had spent over a decade in the country, chose not to leave Bugobe. It was an act of bravery, faith and folly.

Shortly after the staff's departure, one of the priests, 44-year-old Servando Mayor, spoke on the radio to his order's headquarters in Rome. He said: "Everyone has gone, including all the refugees. We are alone and expect an attack at any moment. If we haven't rung again by the evening, assume the worst."

The worst did happen. According to witnesses among the fearful Zairean peasants who happened to be in the vicinity, a group of Hutu

militiamen, believed to have been members of the *Interhamwe*, burst upon the Marist settlement in the late afternoon.

Deaf to the pleas of the Spanish priests, the Hutu gunmen proceeded to destroy the radio set and much of the settlement.

The priests were kicked repeatedly, and hit with rifle butts. About an hour later they were attacked again with deadly intent. Peasants report that the four Marists were chopped about with machetes as they attempted to kneel and pray.

The cries of one priest resounded some distance away: "Dear God, dear God. We are about to die. Have pity on our souls." Shortly after, there was a burst of gunfire and then a chilling silence.

The attackers then dragged the mutilated bodies of the priests to a nearby well, dug by the Marists some months ago to provide water for the refugees.

One by one, witnesses say, the corpses were flung into the well, 40ft deep and only a yard wide at the mouth. The killers were later seen cavorting about the settlement wearing clothes that belonged to the dead priests.

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Military planners face nightmare mix of decisions

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE sudden and unexpected exit of Rwandan Hutu refugees from the camps in eastern Zaire back towards Rwanda presents those planning the multinational intervention force with a nightmare range of decisions.

On the face of it, the return of Rwandans to their homeland makes the challenge less awesome and the task less demanding for an outside humanitarian force. In London, Ministry of Defence and Foreign Office officials issued a warning against the temptation to leap to the conclusion that a force is no longer needed and that the refugee crisis is being resolved overnight.

The message from the Foreign Office, which kept in touch with other potential

troop-contributing countries yesterday, was that planning was going ahead and a multinational force, with British participation, was still preparing to leave for Zaire.

The situation could suddenly go the other way. It would only take a bunch of armed militia to open fire on departing refugees and the withdrawal to Rwanda could be reversed, a Ministry of Defence official said.

At Britain's Permanent Joint Headquarters, the new facility set up in the bowels of the Fleet headquarters at Northwood in northwest London, the range of options appeared to be changing by

the minute as the situation on the ground in Zaire presented new and different challenges.

While the main concern — the large number of armed militia preventing the Rwanda Hutus from leaving the refugee camps in eastern Zaire — appeared to have been resolved temporarily, there was still perceived to be the need for a large-scale humanitarian aid mission.

The Ministry of Defence was working on the assumption that the main objective of the intervention force was to secure conditions that would allow the resumption of aid deliveries and the repatriation of refugees. "Active consideration" was also being given to the possibility of British troops being asked to disarm militia who interfered with aid deliveries.

While the ministry waited for the report from the 43-man reconnaissance party which arrived in the region last night, the two units on 72 hours' notice to leave, the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment and 45 Commando Royal Marines, spent the day checking their equipment and receiving injections to counter the potential health hazards in Zaire.

The British force is expected to be run by the headquarters of 5 Airborne Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Graeme Lamb, a former SAS officer.

While the troops are expected to use Nairobi as the initial entry point in Africa, because it has the facilities and infrastructure for dealing with a large influx of soldiers and equipment, the two key airfields in Zaire will be Goma and Bukavu. In Zaire, geography, climate, lack of infrastructure and disease combine to make the military planners' job a nightmare. There are few roads and railways are virtually non-existent. The rainy season has started, and roads become impassable. Dysentery, cholera and malaria claim thousands of lives and jeopardise humanitarian operations.

Up to 2,000 French troops



The first of the British reconnaissance party goes into an VC10 at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire yesterday at the start of the Zaire mission

Paris threatens Tutsi rebels with 'vigorous response'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE

TUTSI rebels who have threatened to open fire on French soldiers deployed in eastern Zaire must be made to back off by the Rwandan Government, officials in Paris said yesterday. They insisted that French troops would respond "vigorously" if they came under attack.

The Tutsi Banyamulenge rebels now controlling Goma and Bukavu airports accuse France of supporting Hutu extremists and have said they will resist French soldiers taking part in the multinational force.

Up to 2,000 French troops

will initially establish a "security zone" around Bukavu airport to allow aid supplies to be flown in, officials said. "We are not going to take the airfield by force," a defence official said. "International pressure is being applied to Rwanda to tell the Banyamulenge, who do what Kigali tells them to do, to back off."

The rebels and Tutsi military leaders in Rwanda hold France responsible for the refugee crisis and claim that France's "Operation Turquoise" in 1994 was a ruse to enable many Hutus guilty of genocide to escape.

Defence officials here said French troops would seek to avoid any confrontation. Sources in Paris said French troops would be confined to securing the airport area and would probably not participate in missions behind Tutsi lines.

Tutsi antipathy towards French troops is reciprocated and government sources said that one of the principal reasons for French insistence on multinational intervention was a fear of open hostilities between Tutsi rebels and an all-French force.

The first contingent of French troops is likely to be drawn from rapid deployment units on permanent alert.

Advance party flies in to assess risks

By MICHAEL EVANS

A FORMER commander of the Royal Marines' Special Boat Service began one of his most challenging tasks yesterday as he arrived in Nairobi at the head of a British reconnaissance party, before moving on to Zaire to assess the problems that lie ahead for the proposed multinational force.

Brigadier Jonathan Thomson, now commander of Britain's new Joint Rapid Deployment Force, has only a few days in which to make judgments that will affect the size and composition of the British contingent. Accompanied by 42 specialists and staff officers, Brigadier Thomson will have to assess the threats that the British soldiers might face on the ground as well as the magnitude of the humanitarian task.

Even as he arrived at Nairobi the refugee crisis was evolving so dramatically that it is probable the brigadier

will recommend a range of options when he returns to Britain next week.

Army sources said the key issues to be investigated by the reconnaissance party would include: the likely threats for British troops, suitable locations for tented camps, food stores, ammunition dumps and water supplies; the quality of the local infrastructure, including roads, bridges and communications; and the transport that will be needed for the four-month tour.

Brigadier Thomson, who from 1980-83 commanded the Special Boat Service, the Royal Marines' equivalent of the SAS, joined the Royal Marines in 1963.

One of his jobs in Zaire will be to liaise with reconnaissance parties from other countries planning to send troops to ensure that they dovetail into a workable force.

Congo battleground a focal point of Cold War

THE latest outbreak of horrors in Zaire has a sear of déjà vu to those of us who covered the collapse of the Congo 36 years ago.

When I arrived in Léopoldville (later to become Kinshasa) as the *News Chronicle* correspondent, the Congo, in a state of chaos and anarchy, had become a focal point of the Cold War — a battleground for the heart of Africa.

Patrice Lumumba, the Congolese Prime Minister, a wild and erratic postal clerk, had become a hero of the Communist Bloc and the Third World. But he had just signed his own death warrant by appealing for Soviet arms and Czech technicians — and the CIA was out to get him.

In response to Lumumba's appeal the Soviet bloc had overplayed its hand, flying into Léopoldville 19 Ilyushin planes packed with Soviet and Czech arms, military advisers and agents. But the

Richard Beeston sr, father of *The Times's* Moscow correspondent, reported from the Congo in 1960. He recalls the chaos of a country that was a Cold War battleground

day I arrived things began to go badly for the Soviet Union and its champion Lumumba. On that day the United Nations, with the backing of Western intelligence agencies, had raised enough funds to pay the back wages of the mutinous Congolese Army which had driven out its Belgian officers and had had no pay since then.

That night I toured the bars of the African quarter of Léopoldville to find them full of drunken Congolese soldiers praising General Joseph Mobutu, their commander, for their payout. The general, a former clerk in the Force Publique, went on to become

President Mobutu — one of the richest and most corrupt men in Africa.

Emboldened by his sudden popularity with his troops, General Mobutu announced his takeover of the Government and closed down the Soviet and Czech embassies. It was a coup for the American and British intelligence services working jointly to frustrate Soviet plans for Africa. One of the most active and effective figures on the Léopoldville scene at the time, who made her reputation in the Congo, was Daphne Park, the formidable MI6 agent there. Working as a diplomat, she was to be seen everywhere



The UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, greets a young General Mobutu in 1961

— a large bespectacled lady, usually with cigarette ash on her ample bosom.

At the time of my arrival, three Congolese leaders — Lumumba, General Mobutu and Joseph Kasavubu — all claimed to be in charge of the Government and all held

frequent press conferences to assert their claims. Covering these entailed crossing checkpoints of trigger-happy drunken soldiers. Hardly less fearsome were the white mercenaries nicknamed *Les Affreux* — the frightful ones, bearded, festooned with dag-

gers and grenades. We in the press were working about 20 hours a day, largely due to an instrument of torture, the Léopoldville telex office. The telex was the only way of getting stories out and you had to bribe a small Congolese clerk with huge sums to get them out. A call could take anything up to 15 hours and, as we waited, the situation in the world outside would change out of all recognition.

In the midst of this chaos, I received a call from the *News Chronicle*. "Is that Mr Beeston?" said a voice. "I've been asked to tell you not to file tonight — the paper has just folded." Three months later I was back in the Congo for *The Daily Telegraph* — this time in the breakaway province of Katanga — a comparative oasis of peace where the President, Moïse Tshombe, served only the best champagne at his press conferences.



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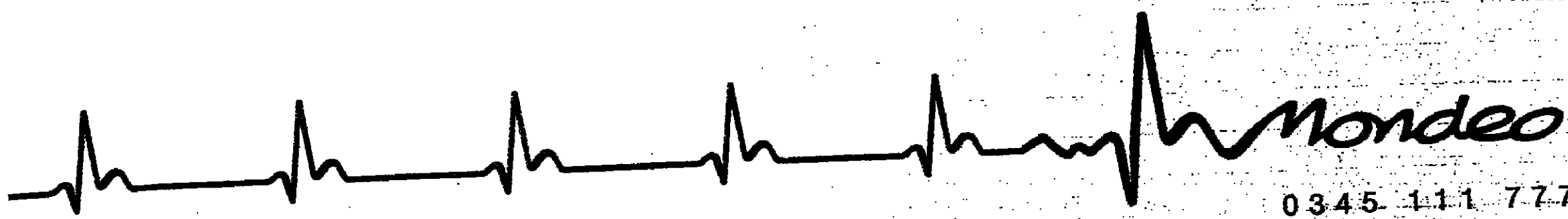
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Clinton pledges troops for new Bosnia force to prevent 'harvest of hatred'

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON last night abandoned plans to withdraw American forces from Bosnia-Herzegovina next month and announced that the United States would send 8,500 soldiers for a new international peacekeeping mission in the Balkans.

Drawing criticism from Republicans on Capitol Hill who accused

Mr Clinton of reneging on last year's promise to Congress of a swift exit from the region, the President announced an agreement in principle for the United States to take part in a second Nato implementation force until June 1998.

"Where our interests are clear and our values are at stake, we must act and we must lead. Clearly Bosnia is such an example," Mr Clinton said. He also announced

the decision to send up to 5,000 troops to Zaire and neighbouring Central African states to tackle the refugee crisis. "Neither will be free of risk, but I will do everything in my power to ensure that both missions are clear, limited and achievable before I give the green light."

Mr Clinton said the total number of American personnel in Bosnia would be reviewed every six months and cut by half by the end

of next year. The new force is thought to consist of 30,000 Nato soldiers. The President said the military aspects of the Dayton accord, including the division of hostile forces and territory and the movement of refugees, had been a success. But he argued that civilian implementation of the peace settlement had failed to secure the fragile institutions of the fledgling Bosnian state and America must offer its services if a "bitter harvest of

hatred" was to be prevented. Republicans, insisting that President Clinton deliberately had delayed formal announcement of his decision until after his re-election, accused the White House of sending Americans into the line of fire without proper assessment of the consequences.

"Even as the President was speaking there were signs of a complete change in the Zaire situation," said Dan Coats, of the

Senate Armed Services Committee. "Our troops should be committed as a last resort rather than a first resort."

Forced in his second term to become the foreign-policy President that he had spent his first four years attempting to avoid, Mr Clinton has tried to ensure that he has political cover for any eventualities. This has included a delay in the announcement of the senior foreign-policy posts in his new Cabinet.

Mr Clinton had curtailed his Hawaiian holiday, which started yesterday, to concentrate on a new choice for Secretary of State.

Belgrade: Bosnian Serbs said they were summoning President Izetbegovic to appear in court on war crimes charges in a move that diplomats said was meant to disrupt the Dayton accord. The charges include "ethnic cleansing" and killing Serb civilians and prisoners-of-war. (Reuters)

Paris strike falters

Paris: A transport strike over job losses and pay attracted little support yesterday and caused only minor disruption, although union leaders threatened more serious unrest in the coming weeks (Ben Macintyre writes).

The Paris strike marked the first anniversary of the Government's attempt to overhaul the social security system.

Despite warnings of widespread chaos, most Métro and bus services were running normally.

Bhutto faces prison threat

Islamabad: The deposed Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, and other leading Pakistani politicians may face disqualification from holding public office for seven years, and a possible jail sentence on charges of corruption and misconduct under a new law (Zahid Hussain writes).

The measure, approved by the caretaker Cabinet, will come into force next week.

Czechs in key Senate vote

Prague: Czechs voted for the second time this year in Senate elections, which are the key to the future of the minority Centre-right Government.

With right-wing indications many Czechs are sceptical about the need for the upper house, President Havel urged citizens to vote for the sake of stability. (Reuters)

Cousin stole wedding gifts

Harare: Takaruzo Lazarus Marufu, 28, the "senior cousin" of President Mugabe's wife Grace, has been told by a judge that he is "a national embarrassment" for stealing £212,500 (£800) of wedding presents from the couple's lavish reception last August (Michael Hartnack writes).

French rap pair jailed for 'Kill the cops' lyrics

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

TWO French rap musicians have been sentenced to three months in prison for song lyrics attacking the police, a verdict that has provoked accusations of censorship from the Left and applause from the far-right National Front.

Bruno Lopez, alias Kool Shen, 30, and Didier Morville, alias Joey Star, 29, singers of the rap group NTM, were each sentenced to six months in prison, with three months suspended, and banned from performing for six months after a court in Toulon found them guilty of "insulting behaviour towards people in authority during the exercise of their duties, by making injurious remarks before a public of several thousand people".

The rap band, composed mainly of North Africans, has gained a large youth following and huge notoriety with such lyrics as "Kill the cops" and "Let's go down to the presidential palace and kill all the old people".

In one profanity-laced song, police are described as "an organised, hierarchical gang, protected by the highest authorities".

The anti-immigrant National Front, led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, has spearheaded a campaign to have the group banned. The Toulon court upheld a complaint lodged by 26 policemen after an NTM concert in the Var region in July 1995. The prosecutor had called for the two singers to be imprisoned for a year.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front Mayor of Toulon, described the sentences as "salutary". He added: "The police must be respected, even loved, because they have an essential role in society protecting the safety of our citizens. These incitements to murder are absolutely scandalous."

A defence lawyer argued that the allegations had no merit, since the lyrics were directed at all policemen rather

than individuals, and said that no policeman had ever been hurt at an NTM concert. He has appealed.

When a music festival in southwestern France was persuaded to cancel an NTM concert earlier this year, Jack Lang, the Socialist former Culture Minister, accused the local Gaullist authorities of "playing by the rules of the National Front".

After Thursday's verdict, M. Lang quoted the revered French writer, André Malraux, whose ashes will be moved to the Pantheon in Paris next week: "We must always choose liberty." Yves Cochet, the Green Party spokesman, told *Le Monde*: "Liberty of expression has been censored one more time."

The court also imposed a fine of 50,000 francs (£6,250) on each of the singers. The conviction, the first of its kind in France, was hailed by the main police unions, two of which have taken out civil cases against the rappers.

Witnesses testified that during the concert at La Seyne-sur-mer on July 14 1995, the two rappers hurled a stream of abuse at police officers: "Police are fascists. They are assassins. They go in three, dressed in blue in their Renault 19s... these people are a danger to your liberties. Our enemies are the men in blue."

The concert was held to protest against the election of M. Le Chevallier, the first National Front mayor of a city with a population of more than 100,000.

Pierre Courtes, the prosecutor, said: "These hellraisers, did they reflect for a second on the risks they were exposing these people to? Was this not an incitement to criminality?"

Lopez said that he did not plan to tune down his lyrics. "I prefer to say things straight," he said. "Rap is the language of the streets. I don't know how anyone can accuse us of provocation. Some think we exaggerate. I rather think we play things down."



Peter Graf, 58, the father of Steffi Graf, the tennis star, is helped from a prison vehicle yesterday before a Mannheim court freed him on bail after 15 months in custody. The court, which is trying him on tax evasion charges, set bail at £2 million (Reuters)

Nile cruise bodies retrieved

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

RESCUE work was continuing yesterday after a Nile cruise between the southern Egyptian cities of Aswan and Luxor ended in tragedy when the tour boat *Princess Jihan* ran aground in a freak storm. Fourteen East European tourists and three crew members drowned.

By mid-afternoon Egyptian divers had retrieved the bodies of five tourists from the boat, which was lying on its side, half-submerged on a sandbank in the middle of the Nile, close to the village of Qah al-Jabal about 360 miles south of Cairo.

Ashraf Bannan, an Egyptian

tour guide who was on the boat, said that one of the dead whose body was recovered, Ian Blovsky, a Czech national, had celebrated his 50th birthday with a party on the morning of the accident in which his wife, Juka, was also drowned.

Mr Bannan said that the cruise boat suddenly listed sometime between 3.30pm and 4pm on Thursday, a time when many of the tourists were resting in their cabins after lunch.

"I was in the restaurant on the lower deck talking to a friend when I felt the boat lean," he went on. "I ran up

quickly and the pressure of the water broke the windows behind me."

"We pulled as many people as we could out of the cabins, but the only tools we had were ropes."

In a race against time before nightfall, another cruiser came alongside to take on some of the passengers. Scores of local people also came out to help in small boats.

Villagers said that at the time of the accident, the winds had been unusually strong on the river. The current was also in full spate because of unusually heavy rains upstream in Ethiopia.

Yeltsin's absence renews concern

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

THERE were growing doubts yesterday about President Yeltsin's true state of health, after his planned address to the nation was postponed and all scheduled meetings were suspended.

Despite continued reassurances from the Kremlin that the Russian leader is making a steady recovery, officials failed to explain why, ten days after his multiple heart bypass operation, he has still not been seen nor heard in public.

One theory put forward by medical sources is that the President attempted to get back on his feet too quickly after his open-heart surgery on November 5, and that he may have set back his recovery.

Nevertheless, the Kremlin remained adamant that Mr Yeltsin was "stable" and that his delayed broadcast was simply a matter of timing. "You understand, the image-makers want the President's appearance to have a big impact," said Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman.

However, many pundits believe that the Russian leader would be best advised to make his comeback as quickly as possible so that the negative rumours about his health can be countered and to reassert his authority over the crisis-ridden administration.

The latest opinion polls published this week revealed that the public had little faith in the Kremlin leader. When asked which politician they trusted most, 24 per cent said General Aleksandr Lebed, the ousted former security chief, 14 per cent backed Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, and only 10 per cent named President Yeltsin.



Chalker: made plea for action, not summit

Chalker says food summit a waste

Rome: Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Minister for Overseas Development, yesterday stunned the World Food Summit by telling it there were too many summits on helping the hungry and not enough action aimed at getting the food to those who need it (Richard Owen writes). She said United Nations bodies and aid agencies were failing in their jobs, with too much waste and duplication.

"We need action plans to benefit our fellow human beings, not more summits," she said briskly. "We've had enough of them."

Lady Chalker's trenchant criticism came on the third day of a five-day summit which opened on Wednesday with an appeal by the Pope on behalf of the world's poor and a pledge to halve the number of hungry by 2015. But few heads of government have attended, and the summit has descended into a recitation of platitudes.

To the dismay of some aid activists, the summit news-sheet on the world's starving millions has offered delegates daily advice on where to find the most elaborate pizzas and ice cream in Rome.

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Lawyer's mini-skirt judged to be decent

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

ITALIAN women, and many Italian men, yesterday welcomed a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court that for a woman to wear a mini-skirt at work was not "an offence against public decency".

The case arose when Nicoletta Bertaccini, a lawyer in Bologna, arrived at the entrance to the city prison to interview a client wearing what a local

prosecutor described as "a breathtakingly high, lobster-coloured mini-skirt and a blouse that was transparent to the point of showing her bra".

A court in Parma ruled that the skirt "only partially covered the hips and buttocks, and from the front failed to cover a clearly visible pair of black knickers". It fined her £60 for "acts contrary to public decency".

Signora Bertaccini appealed to the Supreme Court, which ruled in her

favour. Judge Vincenzo Accattatis said sexual customs and fashion had undergone an "enormous evolution", and what constituted public decency was a concept that altered "as the culture alters".

Handing down the judgment, he said: "How a person dresses may be judged unsuitable or in poor taste, but that is no reason to penalise their behaviour. A pluralistic and democratic society must show tolerance and accept differences in the way people dress."

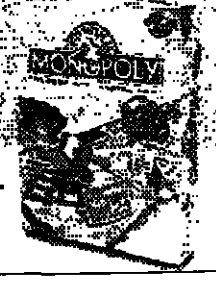
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Leader of ex-Communists hopes shift to market values will be rewarded with premiership

Quick off his Marx

ROME FILE
by RICHARD OWEN

A GRAINY photograph of a slim young man with black curly hair and a moustache dancing in bell-bottomed trousers in the streets of Havana appeared in *Il Messaggero* this week. A quarter of a century on, Massimo D'Alema wears dapper suits, and is said by the Italian press to have his sights on becoming the first ex-Communist to become Prime Minister.

As leader since 1994 of the former Communists, now the Party of the Democratic Left, Signor D'Alema this weekend will lead the cheers for President Castro as the Cuban leader comes to Rome for the world food summit. But he emphasises that, despite left-wing nostalgia, the party has shed its ideological past. "We were idealists," he says with a

smile. "We still are. But we have changed." After the Cold War and the collapse of the Christian Democrats in corruption scandals, the Italian Communists changed their name, dropped their Marxism, and embraced the market. After the election last April, they became the main component in the centre-left Government led by Romano Prodi, an economics professor.

Until now Signor D'Alema, 47, a long-time Communist Party apparatchik, has kept in the background. He knows Italians only

over the television news, the hair still curly and the youthful twinkle undimmed, leading *La Repubblica* to refer to "the metamorphosis of Massimo". He comes across as calm, prudent, and always ready with a thoughtful soundbite. Earlier this month, he launched himself as an international figure, touring Middle Eastern capitals. "D'Alema was very well informed, with very good judgment," said an impressed Italian diplomat.

Signor D'Alema's emergence into the limelight follows increasing tensions within the Olive Tree coalition. The key problem is the growing public opposition to tax increases in the 1997 budget designed to reduce the deficit and help Italy to qualify for monetary union. A huge right-wing demonstration in Rome a week ago showed that many Italians have no wish to pay the price for joining the single currency.

In the ensuing crisis, Signor D'Alema has emerged as the central coalition figure, urging Silvio Berlusconi, leader of the right-wing opposition, to help to



Massimo D'Alema, the ex-Communist apparatchik who aims to be the Prime Minister

find a compromise. The hard Left is dismayed by Signor D'Alema's increasingly cosy relationship with Signor Berlusconi. A media tycoon under investigation for corruption, Signor Berlusconi embodies what Signor D'Alema himself once regarded as the unacceptable face of Italian capitalism. Signor D'Alema is seeking Left-Right consensus not

only on the single currency but also on a new body to reform the national constitution. This would allow the regions federal powers (to undermine the separatist Northern League) and give the figurehead Italian presidency an enhanced directly elected role. Some think that the Rome-born Signor D'Alema would like not only to

chair the new constitutional body but also to become the new-style President — if the middle classes can trust him. He could even become Prime Minister, should the stresses of "joining Europe" persuade Professor Prodi to give up his role as front man for the Left and return to teaching economics in Bologna.

Chestnut rip-offs roasted

AMONG the sights of Rome in autumn are roast chestnut vendors. But they are under threat because, according to the town hall, which issues permits for street salesmen in central sites such as Piazza Navona, the itinerant vendors are not only overcharging tourists, at an exorbitant 80p a chestnut, but also expanding their businesses to include roast corn on the cob, coconuts and snacks.

The authorities are also cracking down on caricature artists on Piazza Navona, not all of whom are licensed. But the main complaint is that the elegant baroque square with its fountains by Bernini "resembles a Middle Eastern bazaar", because of the large number of immigrant North Africans who spread their fake designer handbags and sunglasses out on tablecloths, bundling them up when the police appear.

Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor, was so incensed when he saw a photograph of the dilapidated hawk-like square that he descended from his office and ordered them out himself. But they soon returned.

Pope's passion was theatre not girls

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME



Pope John Paul II, girls attracted by his athletic good looks

THE Pope yesterday threw new light on his lack of romantic attachments as a young man, saying he had avoided involvement with girls in wartime Poland not only because he was drawn to the priesthood, but also because he was preoccupied with the theatre.

His remarks, in his memoir *Gift and Mystery*, were written while he was awaiting surgery for an inflamed appendix during the summer.

A Vatican report on priestly vocations this month said that the number of Roman Catholic priests in Europe had fallen by 13 per cent since 1978, partly because of "secularism and the decline of moral values and discipline" and partly because of the "negative perception of celibacy". The Pope, however, continues to insist on

celibacy as a condition of ordination.

The pontiff's memoirs, which take the form of reflections on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination in Krakow deal for the first time with the question often posed by his biographers: why did the young Karol Wojtyla, although deeply religious, not begin to study for the priesthood until 1942 at the age of 22?

Some have suggested that since he was athletic and handsome, and a budding playwright and actor, he might have been tempted by some of the girls who subsequently admitted they had found him attractive.

"It might be thought that if a young man with such clear religious intentions did not enter the seminary earlier, it

was a sign that other loves or predilections were involved," the Pope writes. "It is true that at school I had many female colleagues, and had numerous opportunities to meet people because of my involvement in the school theatre club. But I was consumed by another passion — for literature, especially dramatic literature, and the theatre."

The Pope recalls that he escaped deportation during the Nazi occupation by working in a stone quarry. "I often reflected that I could have been picked up at any time, at home or at the quarry, and taken to a concentration camp. So many people of my age were losing their lives all around me — why not me?"

He concluded, he says, that God had saved his life for a special purpose.

Hard Rock in new ban

Madrid: The city council here has taken the "mad cow" baton from Paris and seized and incinerated 660lb of beef from the Spanish capital's Hard Rock Café, (Izuku Varadarajan writes).

The Irish beef had passed through a London warehouse, which made it "potentially unfit for human consumption", said Simon Vinales, Madrid's health councillor. "The rules prohibit the import of British beef, so we had to take action ... even though the meat was Irish." Legal proceedings have been started against the restaurant which, in order to stay open, is serving only Spanish meat.

The Hard Rock Café in Paris was closed earlier this month for selling beef which it said was Irish.

Resignation of minister adds to beleaguered Prodi's woes

BY RICHARD OWEN

ITALY'S centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi, already reeling from huge public demonstrations against tax increases, yesterday sought to limit the damage caused by the sudden resignation of Antonio Di Pietro, a senior minister and former anti-corruption magistrate.

The resignation came hours before the core provisions of the controversial 1997 budget, designed to meet the Maastricht single currency criteria by slashing the public deficit, passed the lower house yesterday.

The centre-right opposition led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister, boycotted the

vote in protest against the Government's attempt to raise revenue through tax increases rather than cuts in welfare and pensions spending. The taxes remain bitterly unpopular, and the trade unions yesterday threatened to call a general strike. The budget still has to pass the Senate next month.

Signor Di Pietro, who commands enormous popularity for his fight against corruption, resigned as Public Works Minister on Thursday night after only seven months in office. Earlier, he had learnt that magistrates in Brescia had begun an investigation into allegations of "irregularities" while he was leading the "Clean Hands" investigations four years ago in the Milan area. Signor Berlusconi — one

of the most prominent figures charged with corruption under "Clean Hands" — called on Signor Prodi to step down.

There was immediate speculation that Signor Di Pietro, a maverick who belongs to no political party, might form a centre party of his own. Walter Veltroni, the deputy Prime Minister, insisted that the Di Pietro resignation would have no effect on the ruling coalition.

Signor Di Pietro believes politicians and businessmen brought down by "Clean Hands" are conducting a vendetta against him. "Enough is enough," he wrote to Signor Prodi. "For years I have been subjected to inquiries and investigations, always unjustly. ... I tried to do my duty."

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Don't talk while I'm interrupting your speech

Broadcasting's culture of rudeness won't let others get a word in, says Derwent May

At the entirely secular memorial service for Kingsley Amis the other day, the congregation was played a recording of him when he was a castaway on *Desert Island Discs*. One thing particularly struck me: how substantial the musical extracts were at that time.

Nowadays, on *Desert Island Discs*, Sue Lawley talks and the music has shrunk to little more than a few evocative bars of the pieces that the castaway chooses. Moreover, in the past few weeks there has been a further development. With some of the extracts, the talking continues even after the music has begun, and starts again before the music has finished.

This insistence on talking while there is something else going on is especially prevalent on television news — on all the channels. In particular, the filming of Parliament for the news bulletins has sunk to a great depth of absurdity. One only gets very brief glimpses of the proceedings, as it is — but even then one is not allowed to hear what ministers and MPs are actually saying.

What we get is a paraphrase by a reporter of what a parliamentarian is saying even while he is saying it. We see the poor man gesticulating over the benches with his mouth opening and closing, but no sound comes from him. Or — even worse — his voice is heard just faintly in the background.

Here they are, cameras and microphones in the House, allowing us entry to perhaps a great debate as we sit in our armchairs — and yet we find ourselves straining to hear what a debater is saying, how he is saying it, what he sounds like, while the reporter drowns him out with some bare summary that we could as easily read in the papers.

You feel that the reporter might just as well put his head in front of the picture and be done with it. But the minister or MP is allowed his pathetic moment. The reporter falls silent, the sound is turned up, and we get half a sentence of wisdom or repartee from him before the bulletin goes on to something else. That "half a sentence" is not just rhetoric on my part. There is a distinct cadence to an English sentence, with the voice falling on the last word to indicate that it is the end of the utterance.

Nowadays, on television, more often than not a speaker is cut off in mid-sentence. You always know it because the voice is still rising. The bit of the sentence that one hears may make perfectly good sense in itself, but one knows that the speaker has simply not finished making his point. It is extremely irritating and even physically disturbing to the viewer — and, to my mind, it is very offensive to the

speaker as well. That is the point I really want to make here. A culture of rudeness has sprung up on television in the past two or three years.

Allowing people to speak, to have their say, is one of the essential points of good manners and respect for other people. Talking while other people are talking, interrupting them, turning one's back on them before they have finished — these are heinous crimes against courtesy.

Yet television news does these things all the time — and prides itself on the technical skill with which it does them. That neat insertion of half a politician's sentence into a carefully worded little news item — how pleased, you can feel, the reporter and the editor of the bulletin are with the deftness they have displayed in their craft.

This culture of rudeness is not, however, a matter of broadcasters being deliberately and ostentatiously rude. It reflects a disagreeable dose of self-importance, no doubt, but it also springs to some degree out of a proper pursuit — that of reporting clearly and briskly what is going on. Politicians have got to say on a subject of interest. But it treats people who are on television as mere inert material, to be chopped up and pasted in to the bulletin as required.

The cadence of English is lost if you only hear half a sentence

We have been hearing a lot about manners and morals lately, not least on television news bulletins. But this seems to me a classic case of the medium itself being the message — and a very bad message too.

Viewers do not see MPs on television film as scraps of "copy" to be used as needed. They accept the illusion of television, and regard them as people, whom the television person is treating like dirt. The bulletins send a message that it is nevertheless perfectly all right to treat people like this. After all, it is not the great pandemics of television who are doing it? That is the way bad behaviour spreads and grows.

On French television one sees a different spectacle — speakers arguing fiercely with each other, both speaking at the same time at the tops of their voices. Professor John Weightman, an authority on the Gallic mind, told me he once remonstrated with a Frenchwoman who did this to him. She replied blandly: "It's all right. I can hear what you're saying when I'm talking."

That does not suit us. The late Jock Murray, in his recently issued *Gentleman Publisher's Commonplace Book*, quotes Todd Rockfeller — one of the lesser-known Rockefeller — as saying: "Don't talk while I'm interrupting." That seems far too common a motto for television broadcasters today.

American women did not vote for Clinton's looks, but for his progressive policies, says Clare Short

Women want Blair, but not for his hair

Women's votes are in the news. For those of us who have been analysing women's voting behaviour this is long overdue. Unfortunately, our relief is accompanied by a large dose of irritation, as the issues are trivialised and we are told by the press that the battle for women's votes is a matter of party leaders' hairstyles.

Last Sunday I was quoted as saying that women's historical tendency to vote more conservatively than men represents a deep political failure for Labour. This is perfectly true. If women had voted Labour in the same proportions as men, we would have seen continuous Labour governments from 1945 to 1979 and Labour would have won in 1992. The Tories' success with women voters explains their domination of political power in the postwar period.

It is nonsense to present these results as a bombshell for Labour. While women's votes have been our historical failure, the polls show a gradual closing of the gap between men's and women's voting behaviour. In 1951, 54 per cent of women voted Conservative, compared with 46 per cent of men. This represented a "gender gap" between men's and women's voting behaviour of 17 percentage points. By 1992, the gap was six points. Recent polls suggest that it has narrowed still further.

Yet women make up the majority of low-paid workers, the majority of the poorest pensioners and are more dependent on public services, such as transport and healthcare, than men. Despite Labour's achievements in creating the welfare state, the NHS and the Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts, women have voted for us in smaller numbers than men. This is a surprising and frustrating phenomenon for Labour.

The recent hysteria in the press over women's voting intent was initially sparked off by a report from the Fawcett Society which simply highlighted the historic trends. The report pointed out that women's votes would be crucial in determining the outcome of the election.

This shift in voting patterns is of great concern to the Conservatives. It is women who have kept them in power. As women's votes shift to Labour, their power base slips away.



Clare Short: women are trumps

What is at stake is an historic shift in voting behaviour that will not just influence the next election, but the balance of power over the next 50 years.

And international experience suggests that women's votes will shift. The pattern in other countries is that women's greater involvement in the labour market is followed, after a lag, by a shift in their votes to the more progressive parties. This has perhaps been most graphically illustrated in the United States. In the late 1970s, America had a gender gap, like that in the UK, which favoured the Republicans. But gradually, women's votes have shifted to the Democrats. Last week we saw Bill Clinton elected on women's votes.

Women voted 58 per cent for Clinton and 33 per cent for Dole. If it had been left to the men, the result would have been too close to call — 45 per cent voted for Clinton compared with 42 per cent for Dole. This is not because women find Clinton attractive — far from it. It is because the values of the Democrats are closer to their own.

This is the challenge which faces the Labour Party. If we could achieve this kind of historic shift in Britain, we might never see another Conservative government. The polls show that women share our values — on the need for fairness and equality of opportunity, for strong and safe communities and for financial and personal security.

If their votes would follow, the face of British politics would be transformed. Current polling suggests that this may be about to happen. With only months to go until the election, Labour is much more popular among women than are the Conservatives, and Tony Blair remains far more popular than John Major with both sexes and all age groups.

Labour is more determined than ever to communicate our message to women and to demonstrate how a Labour government will improve the quality of life to build a better future. It is right to emphasise that women's votes will be a battle-ground in the campaign. However, we, unlike the press, recognise that women are serious political players. Winning their support will be about offering them the vision and the policies they want, not a fictitious change in hairstyle.

The author is Shadow Minister for Overseas Development.

Save us from this African folly

Only the exodus from Zaire can stop another fatal adventure by the West

Passers-by in Whitehall have recently noticed a bedraggled African standing with a small stool outside the Foreign Office. The man holds a flag and stares vacantly into the street. His placard says simply: "Sudan: we request a British government initiative to settle this war." We smile at the poor chap. He may be standing under the naked-breasted goddess of empire adorning the nerve-centre of diplomacy. But he must realise that Britain is no longer a great power. Rhodes and Kitchener are dead. Africa is independent. We no longer do wars there.

Yet we pretend. Like schoolboys, we play Gordon of Khartoum as if preaching morality to the Dark Continent. We send an occasional soldier to remind the Africans (and ourselves) of the good old days. This week, had the man outside the Foreign Office only waved the Zairean flag, he would be hero of the hour. Malcolm Rifkind would rush down and invite him in for a drink.

Simon Jenkins

BBC would sign him up as a pundit. Michael Portillo would enlist him as guide in the regiment of his choice. Michael Heseltine would suggest a speaking tour of marginal seats.

Until last night, Britain was about to dispatch troops to Zaire not to relieve a natural or human disaster but to attempt a political goal. This goal was to ferry quantities of supplies through to the Hutu settlements in Zaire then under Tutsi attack. At the same time Tutsi leaders were to be picked out and arrested, sent to war crimes trials and their followers sent back into Rwanda. (The French had a different goal, to protect their old friends, the same Hutu leaders, from Tutsi retribution.) These confused objectives were unlikely to be attained by intervention, and every private adviser was telling ministers so. On Thursday the Defence Secretary, Mr Portillo, at least had the honesty to sound unconvincing. He even pretended that British troops were not really going, just thinking of going as a token of "something being done".

This is how stupid British armies go abroad nowadays, oblivious to "do something" unspecified, in the last century merchant adventurers stirred the media to badger politicians over national pride. Gunboats and troop carriers were duly sent. The merchant adventurers of modern Africa are the aid agencies, often feuding with each other and the United Nations. They are the biggest power-brokers on the continent. They can move large quantities of money and supplies. They influence the outcome of wars, as in Ethiopia. They occupy territory, wreck fragile market economies, encourage rural depopulation and are obsessed with self-publicity. I accept the sincerity of their purpose and the fact that they can save lives in the short term. The jury is out on how many they cost in the long term.

These charities once made much of their pacifism, as the International Committee of the Red Cross still does. They refused ever to work under the shadow of the gun. But since Somalia and Bosnia, aid agencies have risen to the sound of the file and drum. With a jeer at the UN and a stage-managed CNN soundbite, they can now em-barrass statesmen into sending armies round the globe. Accountable to none, they call in the moral B-52s for surgical strikes at targets selected for accessibility to television news. (There is no fundraising for starving Azeris or Chechens.) In Zaire it has been the turn of CARE and Save the Children to have their logos emblazoned over CNN reports brazenly calling for troops. Under the exaggerated slogan "a million dead by Christmas", a fund-raising drive is under way. Pity the needy of Sudan, Liberia, Angola, Zaire is in play.

Two years ago some more reputable relief agencies (including Save the Children) refused to go to Goma and other Rwandan refugee settlements in Zaire. Stabilising such havens for Hutu leaders and their followers was certain to lead to trouble. Even at some short-term humanitarian cost, the hundreds of thousands pouring into Zaire had to be left to go home. Instead, for two years Goma became a city sustained by aid and policed by warlords, waiting for the Tutsi counter-attack. It has duly come. The mercy is that it came, and has proved effective, before Western soldiers arrived on the scene. The latter would have been drawn into a civil war in which they would inevitably have hard-



In handling the Rwandan refugee crisis, has the West learnt from the UN's fiasco in the Congo (now Zaire) 35 years ago? These Irish UN troops were captured in 1961 by the secessionist forces of Katanga

ened. There would have been less, not more, chance of yesterday's mass return to Rwanda. For six years the world has been flooding Rwanda with aid and troops, including 600 Britons in 1994. None of this appears to have done an ounce of good. Tens of millions of dollars have gone down the drain and tens of thousands of people have died. Rwanda is plainly worse off than it was before the intervention began. Yet nobody conducts any audit. British MPs on Thursday seemed unaware that Britain had troops in Rwanda as recently as 1994. The reason is that they were never part of any strategy, humanitarian, political or military. They were to enable a minister to show he was "taking a lead" at some conference.

Rwanda's troubles are not natural but man-made. Politically-correct racism holds that African states must never be held to blame for the human cost of their civil wars. Every charity spokesman I have heard has implied that the fault lies with the UN, the West or some non-existent entity called "the international community". Yesterday in *The Times*, the

international director of Oxfam welcomed the dispatch of UN troops to the war in Zaire. He blithely demanded that they "disarm the genocidal militia and forces of the former Rwandan regime" (that is the Hutus), as well as "achieve a political settlement in the region". *The Washington Post*, for its part, called last week for Western troops to separate combatants from non-combatants in the camps so that "the killers be killed". It would be ludicrous to expect 12,000 white soldiers operating in hostile country under general rules of engagement to do any such thing, even if there were the remotest legal justification for such intrusion. Thank goodness the UN delayed until the Tutsis did the job instead.

There is no point in charity that merely prolongs war. But if charity is to be given, let it be private and go where it is most needed and not where it serves politics. Rwanda is a fertile independent state that has squandered years of help. The place has become drunk on intervention. It needs to re-establish central authority, whether democratic or not. Sending in foreign soldiers to substitute for local authority, to disarm the latter's enemies or protect them from retaliation, to move peoples across the map and to impose political settlements, is neo-imperialism.

Even if there were a moral case for the aid agencies' implicit desire to restore Western sovereignty in Central Africa — coded as "humanitarian relief" — there is no clear strategy to achieve it. For instance, France's motives in Rwanda-Zaire are diametrically opposed to Britain's. Even if there were such a strategy for intervention, there is none for subsequent disengagement. Britain is terrible at leaving Africa.

The West appears to have lost what was meant to be a test of its moral Rapid Deployment capability. The logic of power on the ground has, for once, stolen a march. What else is around? Mr Rifkind could perhaps take the advice of the man outside his office. He could try Sudan. There the sons of the Mahdi are again on the rampage. Thousands are starving. Khartoum awaits. It would be a fine place for a Tory last stand.

Scotch fling

TIME to take all the speculation about Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's health and file it under N for "Next patient please". Thursday night saw her in Blitz form as she attended the Victory Services Club behind Marble Arch with 150 fellow members of the Black Watch Association.

At 96 she has been *hors de combat* with a chill, missing even the Remembrance Day Parade. But for the Bowes Lyon "family" regiment, of which she is Colonel-in-



Queen Mother: bonzy

Chief, she always turns out. "Don't push forward," said Colonel R.L.L. Ker. "There is not a hope in hell that the Colonel-in-Chief can meet you all." Clearly, he had not consulted the Queen Mother first.

As she was piped in, behind her came a butler carrying a dry Martini on a silver tray, a change from her usual gin and Dubonnet. She would turn occasionally for a reviving draught as she toured the assorted kilts.

She wore her favourite earrings in the Black Watch "Jimmies" (St Andrew's Cross badge worn on sporran and Glengarry) and the jewelled Jimmie brooch given to her by one of her brothers who was killed with the BW at Arras in 1914.

Grizzled old sergeants grew quite moist-eyed at the sight of her and the affection was obviously mutual. After 50 minutes of gossiping she had to be dragged away by her pipers to another engagement.

Before the company sat down to a dinner the upturned pyramid Martini glass, complete with royal lipstick smudge, was auctioned for £50.

Lord Tebbit added his own remarks to the politicians' hair debate on Thursday night before

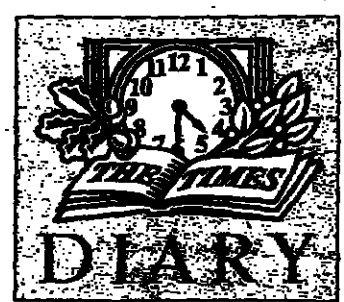
delivering a lecture at Church House in Westminster. John Redwood introduced him, pointing out that he didn't have quite as much hair as some others to worry about. Tebbit told his audience that his approach to hair-care is seasonal. "I get my hair cut four times a year. At the winter and summer solstices and both equinoxes. That way I don't forget about it."

Oil baron

MAJORCANS are divided over the increasing presence on their is-



Any chance of returning Billy Connolly as well?



land of Richard Branson. First he opened the discreet, yet ritzy, La Residencia hotel. Now his latest plans for a beachside pleasure palace have run into some local opposition. The new site, which Branson has already bought, contains a sizeable olive grove. Branson's people had a dream: weary rat-racers could come and work out their tensions in this kibbuz-like idyll, pressing olives, making olive oil. This could then be sold as Virgin extra virgin.

Planners are now dithering over the idea, while Virgin tells me: "Richard is toying with lots of ideas." The word in the Balearics is that he may need all of them.

Next year's Conservative Party conference in Blackpool could mark the last time the Tories use the imposing, red-brick Imperial Hotel as their headquarters. There is talk within the National Union,

which organises the conference, of decamping to the Pembroke down the road. This follows complaints from many party members that the Imperial during conference is an overpriced, overheated inferno. By contrast, the Pembroke is cool and modern. Fill it with 1,000 barking Tories, however, and that is unlikely to last.

With nobs on

THE WHIFF of damp Barbours and creak of old brogues was evident in central Manhattan this week when the British Field Sports Society held a fundraising auction. It attracted more than 250, mostly deep-pocketed, New Yorkers.

Under the hammer went a day's pleasant shooting and dinner with Lord and Lady Vestey at Stowell Park, Gloucestershire, for \$9,000. A three-day stay in London with lunch at the House of Lords with the Earl of Stockton — him picking up the tab — sold for \$3,000, and a day's shooting with the Duke of Marlborough for \$10,500. The Legge-Bourke's of Powys, Tiggy's parents, offered a duck day at Glamusk Park, Crickehowell.

Lord Willoughby de Broke, who organised the evening, looked pick with pleasure at the total raised, which exceeded \$200,000. It was a measure of the buying fury of the night that some soul even bid \$350

for a tour of the Palace of Westminster with the twitish Tory MP for Wimbledon, Charles Goodson-Wicks, roughly \$349 more than most would consider paying.

All bran

BEST to keep upwind of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare at the moment. He is on a high fibre diet — lots of bran, grain, vegetables and wholemeal bread — in an effort to lose weight. The inspiration for this came as the Archers celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary. Lady A noticed she was one pound lighter than on the day they married. Not so Jeffrey, who came in two stone heavier.

Ever the man of action, Archer hired a personal trainer "to beat me up in my own gym" with a pledge to be two stone lighter by December 1. Unfortunately all is not going to plan. "I lose the fat but then it turns to muscle," he says, "resulting in only minimal weight loss." Lord Archer claims the exercise and diet makes him feel twice as spritely. "I used to be tiresome now I'm impossible. The only thing I miss is shepherd's pie."

Model baby

MISSING from Thursday's Carter party in New Bond Street was



India Hicks: pregnant

India Hicks, model, granddaughter of Lord Mountbatten and one of the faces of the jewellers' new advertisement. Guests had to make do with Carter's other catalogue models, such as Lætitia Casta, daughter of Bill Cash, MP, and Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, the darling of the fashion world, who posed in a telephone booth wearing a furry hat for her shoot.

Mrs Hicks, it emerged, was staying at the family house on the Bahamian island of Eleuthera, where she was preparing for her first baby. Her boyfriend manages a local hotel.

P.H.S



CASSANDRA'S WARNING

How to plan a coup against Prime Minister Blair

It is the nightmare that good combative Conservatives try to conjure when faced with a friend who is backing Tony Blair: remember Ken Livingstone and the GLC. A moderate leader of the Labour group was ousted in a left-wing putsch straight after winning an election: the same fate might await that nice Mr Blair.

Now, however, it is not a Tory mooring this possibility but a Labour figure writing under the pseudonym "Cassandra" in *Tribune*. The author suggests that, by the end of next year, Mr Blair will be "isolated and weakened beyond recovery", and that Robin Cook, who has "built the strongest parliamentary reputation since John Smith" will be ready to step into his shoes.

How credible is this? Labour has traditionally been much less ruthless than the Tories about replacing its leaders. Atlee, Gaitskill, Wilson, Michael Foot and Neil Kinnock all suspected plots to oust them. Sometimes they were right. But they all held on to their posts. If Labour was not prepared to sack Mr Foot when he was in Opposition and trailing hugely in the polls, it might seem unlikely that the party would want to rid itself of Mr Blair if he were Prime Minister and has just delivered them its first general election victory for 23 years.

It has to be said that Messrs Foot and Kinnock were retained well beyond their useful life because the party still felt sentimentally loyal towards them. Mr Blair, less rooted in the party, is unlikely to be able to draw on such reserves. But one look at the constitutional obstacles to sacking a Labour leader when the party is in office shows how unlikely the Livingstone idea ought to be.

If a leadership contest is to be triggered against a Labour Prime Minister, a majority of the party conference (that is, trade unionists and constituency activists) would have to vote for one. Then 20 per cent of Labour MPs (probably 65 to 70 in the event of an election victory) would have to declare their support, publicly, for the challenger. Technically, Mr Blair looks safe enough.

The only other hope for Cassandra is a Cabinet revolt. In the end, it was loss of the Cabinet's confidence that put paid to Margaret Thatcher. The same fate would have befallen John Major had there been an alternative candidate around whom his colleagues could unite.

What combination of circumstances could make the Cabinet turn against Mr Blair? A decision to enter the single currency could be one such. The imposition of economic austerity in order to meet the convergence criteria could lead to high unemployment, huge government unpopularity and a weakening of the Prime Minister's position. Mr Cook, with his known Euro-sceptic views, could benefit from Mr Blair's misfortune. That is one reason why the Labour leader is highly unlikely to take such a risk.

There is little in Labour's proposed programme that could generate a coup. The whole purpose of winning party support for new Labour policies in advance of an election is that members will be unable to complain afterwards if they are put into effect. But there are still "events", the bane of every politician's life. Most threatening to Mr Blair would be a series of severe public sector strikes, in which he and Gordon Brown could be presented as authoritarian, anti-trade union gorgons fighting nurses, ambulance drivers or school dinner ladies. Mr Cook could hint that he would like to see the strikes settled with a higher pay offer and that only the intransigence of Messrs Blair and Brown was preventing a resolution.

If he became Prime Minister, Mr Blair would undoubtedly have to take unpopular decisions. His only hope, therefore, would be to surround himself with like-minded people. His first Cabinet would have to be made up largely of the present Shadow Cabinet. But before long, he would be able to bring in more modernisers. And Mr Cook, a prickly loner, is not popular with his senior colleagues. They would not eagerly precipitate a change of leadership that might give him the top job.

DAWN OF HOPE

The West must review every aspect of its African mercy mission

Almost overnight, the rebel forces in eastern Zaire appear to have accomplished what America and Canada feared to undertake. France refused to contemplate and Britain considered highly risky. Their attacks on the Hutu militias in the surrounding forests. Free at last of armed intimidation and able to make their own choices, around 400,000 ordinary Rwandan refugees emptied the camps at first light; most of them appear to be headed home. As the news spreads, other refugees may vote with their feet.

The emergency is not over, but at least one part of the Great Lakes jigsaw may be coming back together. If the *Interahamwe's* grip over their fellow Hutus is really on the way to being broken, the task of providing help will dramatically change. An unknown number of refugees, scattered by the recent fighting, may find their way back blocked by armed gangs. "Food trails" to the frontier, possibly including air drops, may be needed. But the main relief effort should be in Rwanda and, probably, Burundi too. That is particularly important to acknowledge because this flow could abruptly reverse if the returnees encounter violence in Rwanda.

Western governments have already started the military ball rolling in one direction and spent some capital preparing their publics for a "Zaire mission". They may be tempted to hold course simply because they have reached broad agreement on it. The Foreign Office view yesterday was that "news reports" justified no change of plan. The French, who continue to give the impression that their real aim is to use the "international community" to help Zaire's Government to regain control of its eastern provinces, were still talking about clearing Goma and Bukavu airstrips of Zairean rebel

forces. Why "secure" airstrips where there is no fighting, in order to reach refugees who may not be there?

To stick to plan would be absurdly counter-productive. In order to capitalise on this unexpected breakthrough, the utmost flexibility is now called for. At Stuttgart next week, the West should review all its initial assumptions about the size, configuration and character of the military mission.

The most urgent immediate need may be a military airlift of food to Rwanda itself. But this will require astute handling of relations with the Rwandan Government, which understandably takes the view that the money spent on deploying soldiers would be better directed to assisting resettlement. Military contingents could speed aid distribution now. But airstrips which are needed to ferry in aid must not be clogged by massive troop deployments. The Hutu returnees must be protected from reprisals by local Tutsis who suspect them, with some justice, of complicity in the 1994 massacre. For this task, more human rights monitors would be the best contribution.

If it adjusts intelligently to the new realities, the West could be in the heartening, and unexpected, position of reinforcing good news. Instead of battling, perhaps literally, to get relief to the Zaire camps — much of which, unless these murderous militias were first disabled, was going to end up in their hands — international effort can and should be concentrated on making this massive and apparently spontaneous homeward migration a durable success. That is what the Rwandan Government insists that it wants. National reconciliation may seem near-impossible after the horrors of 1994; but it has had precious little help to date with this tremendous task. It is time to invest in a more stable Rwanda.

TAUT LINES

The modern fisherman needs more than patience and a worm

High-speed fishing used to be an oxymoron. Fishing once gave the angler something to do while he was not doing anything. Centuries of literature and lore have used the sport as a metaphor for the virtues of patience, idleness and Micawberism. Izaak Walton hinted at these pleasures when he subtitled *The Compleat Angler: A Contemplative Man's Recreation*. There was nothing high-speed about his riverbank idyll, except the march to fish supper at the end of the day.

As our Angling Correspondent reports today, Larry Salter of Ebbw Vale sees his sport rather differently, and has smashed the world record for bleak-fishing by landing 46lbs 12 ozs of fish in five hours. If landing 46lbs had been a record pike from his quarry had been a record salmon out of Ulladegedd Reservoir or a giant salmon out of the Tay, this might have been a day of the fish. But he was averaging a fish every 12 minutes. Mr Salter caught more than 1,500 of them. So he was averaging a fish every 12 minutes, and at times of feeding frenzy or the seconds, and he was landing a fish and a black rasher hour he was landing a fish and getting his hook back in the water once every five seconds. He describes his style of fishing

as continuous saluting. The *Angling Times* describes him as "a human windmill".

So we have to revise our image of the fisherman as a man of patience and guile, taking pains to change his bait or tie his flies. To rewrite Dr Johnson, the angler is no longer a jerk on one end of the line waiting for another jerk that never comes. Good fishing has become physical exercise like Indian Clubs or operating a pneumatic drill.

Records attract fishermen, who can dislocate more arms describing their catches than landing them. The lure of the record-book has put many a fish in a glass case instead of the frying-pan. But a record book would look puny even in a test tube. So bleak-fishing has become a race of number-crunching.

It comes as no surprise that this fast sport was invented by the Italians, who are generally regarded by the British as more volatile and less phlegmatic than themselves. Their designer gadgets of modern angling make Christmas presents for fishermen almost as easy as for golfers. But until now fisherman's elbow was never a threat to Izaak Walton. If fishing is to become a high-speed competition, we need a substitute leisure activity for the contemplative, something as lazy as a day in June. Teaching worms to swim on the end of a line, anyone?

Implications of 48-hour directive

From Sir Roy Denman

Sir, It is difficult to take Mr Major seriously on the European working time directive (letters, November 12, 14), or indeed any European question, because, like Charlie Chaplin, he no sooner crawls out of one hole than he stumbles into another.

He banged the table in March 1994 on the number of votes needed to block a decision by the Council of Ministers but got nowhere. The same thing happened earlier this year with the beef war. The same thing will happen again with the working time directive.

What he has achieved is something quite different. Our partners are beginning to ask whether they want us in the club. A leading German weekly, *Die Zeit*, wrote on June 21:

"Thanks to mad cows and the export ban on British beef... one thing is clear. Either the UK goes on as they have done and steer Europe into a blind alley or progress is possible with fewer than the 15."

Similar thoughts have been expressed in the Belgian press.

This leads to the fundamental question which the rest of the Union will soon want answered. For most of them the destination is what one of the drafters of the Treaty of Rome, Pierre Uri, called "fiscal, social, monetary, and ultimately political union". Britain can no more stop this than could King Canute the tide. The question is whether we want wholeheartedly to join them on this journey or simply settle for a peripheral role.

Europe will not wait much longer. They are sick and tired of dragging along an unwilling partner. Our politicians need, in honesty to us and to our friends, to declare our colours if the rest of Europe is not to move ahead without us.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DENMAN,
150 Avenue de Tervuren,
1150 Brussels.
November 15.

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset and East Devon (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, In all the fuss over the European Court of Justice's judgment over the Council directive on aspects of working time one further point should be made — implementation and enforcement are the responsibility of national authorities. In our case that would probably be the Health and Safety Executive.

Past experience shows that in implementing EU health and safety measures the UK has imposed obligations on British firms which were not required by the original directives, for example, by including penalties such as fines or imprisonment.

I hope that when the House of Commons comes to consider the UK regulation to implement the working-time directive it will throw out anything which "gold plates" it, especially penalties since there are none in the directive itself.

Why not do what other member States of the EU do — simply follow the *exact* text of the original directive? That would avoid imposing unnecessary burdens on British employers.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN CASSIDY (Conservative Spokesman on Economic Affairs),
European Parliament,
97-113 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels.
November 14.

From Mr Malcolm Wicks, MP for Croydon North West (Labour)

Sir, It would be foolish if the European Court's judgment on the 48-hour working-week limit was debated purely in terms of the politics of Europe. A report, *Parenting in the 1990s*, published on November 4 by the Family Policy Studies Centre, examines the impact of employment patterns on family life. A major finding is that "more than one in four fathers worked 50 hours a week or more, and those who did were less involved in family activities". One in ten fathers works 60 hours or more a week.

The survey also revealed that two-thirds of the fathers sometimes worked in the evenings and six out of ten sometimes at weekends. Given that many mothers too work antiscocial hours, the time available for both parents to be together in the family was often reduced.

These are significant lessons for public policy. How we enable British men and women to have worthwhile employment, while enabling them also to have decent family lives and be effective parents, is a vital question. The alleged "freedom" to exploit the British employee is an anti-family policy that we must resist.

Yours etc,
MALCOLM WICKS
(Opposition Social Security Spokesperson on Family Policy),
House of Commons,
November 13.

Irish giants

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, Mr D. Barton writes (letter, November 9) that the imposition of the English language on the Irish people, which he calls compulsory English, "gave us the giants of Irish literature". Not so. These giants were virtually all Anglo-Irish, who would have spoken English anyway.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
House of Lords.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

British knowledge of Nazi atrocities

From Dr John P. Fox

Sir, Professor Richard Breitman's achievement in winking out of the United States Government the transcripts of the telegraphic reports of the Nazi Einsatzgruppen killer squads in Russia in 1941 (report, "Britain knew Jews were being killed 'before Auschwitz' 7 is to be applauded).

However, it should be recalled that in 1981 Professor F. H. Hinsley revealed that the British Intelligence Enigma decrypts of German telegraphic traffic also included German police and security reports of their mass killing of Jews in Russia and the Ukraine in the autumn of 1941.

Summaries of those decrypts were submitted to Winston Churchill on a regular basis and these were eventually made available for public inspection at the Public Record Office, Kew, in November 1993. Three years ago my efforts to have transcripts of the decrypts themselves made available at Kew proved abortive.

In view of Professor Breitman's success in Washington, and of the nonsense that this makes of Britain's unwillingness or inability to release the British holdings of these documents, I have now written to the Prime Minister asking for their release.

Yours etc,

JOHN P. FOX
(Lecturer in Jewish history),
Jews' College, 44a Albert Road, NW4.

From Ms Gitta Sereny

Sir, The impression given by Professor Richard Breitman's remarks, as quoted in your report, is misleading. Presenting already well-known historical facts as new discoveries tends to diminish their substance and even to misrepresent them.

The murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Russia in 1941, well

before the establishment of extermination camps, and the fact that many of the first killings were carried out by the German Ordnungspolizei, have been amply described in *Those Who Were The Days and God With Us* by Klee, Dressen and Riess (1988, 1992), in *Ordinary Men* by Christopher Browning (1992), in my own *Albert Speer, His Battle With Truth* (1995) and, however critical I was in my review (March 28, 1996), in *Hitler's Willing Executioners* by Daniel Goldhagen.

The East European murders, ordered by Hitler and carried out during the last six months of 1941, included not "only" about half a million Russian Jews, but many tens of thousands of non-Jewish Russian civilians — the political and cultural elite of dozens of conquered cities.

They also included most of the Jews (250,000 in Lithuania alone) and countless non-Jews in the three Baltic republics and Poland. It is true that many of these actions were originally carried out by native National Guards and later by the Ordnungspolizei. However, these organisations were under the control and command of the SS, and all their reports were signed by SS officers.

These murders have long been a matter of historical fact. It is still unclear when they were first recognised as being the start of the genocide of all European Jewry and of the systematic elimination of Eastern Europe's social, religious and cultural elite. The truth about British knowledge of these matters will not be found in German or Russian documents, but in Britain where it is as yet carefully hidden away.

Sincerely yours,
GITTA SERENY,
c/o Tessa Sayle Literary Agency,
11 Jubilee Place, SW3.
November 14.

Two minutes' silence

From the Moderator of the Church of Scotland Presbytery of Orkney

Sir, On Remembrance Sunday, I conducted two remembrance services in small rural parishes in this county, following which wreaths were laid at local war memorials (letters, November 7, 13). Other rural parish churches in our county did the same. At St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, and at Stromness, the Royal British Legion and other uniformed bodies attended substantial church parades. No doubt similar services occurred without national publicity the length and breadth of the United Kingdom, at which ex-servicemen and others gathered and stood in silent respect.

I was born in 1948, and have only a vague childhood memory of the daytime silence for Armistice Day. I have, however, attended and led many remembrance services — indeed, I believe that for the last thirty years such services, together with the Earl Haig Fund's poppies, have kept the memory alive of the sacrifices of 1914-18 and thereafter. Leading worship for congregations that include people who have been under fire and lost friends is for me a profoundly moving experience.

In an age when church attendance is diminishing, I can understand the decision of the Legion to try to revive the midweek silence. No doubt those who attend the Sunday services are pleased to observe a second and per-

sonal remembrance on November 11. I cannot but think, however, that it is a pity that our nation cannot listen to me than one message at a time — that the call to silence on Monday this year swamped and, it seems to me, diminished in the public's esteem the multitude of acts of remembrance held as usual on the Sunday.

You report Charles Lewis, controller of communications at the Royal British Legion, as saying (November 11): "We know it will never take the place of the Remembrance Day ceremony in Whitehall. We are just calling for recognition of Armistice Day." I hope that, next year, the Legion's publicity will remember that such services are not confined to Whitehall.

Yours etc,
FRANK BARDGETT,
Moderator of the Church of Scotland Presbytery of Orkney,
Daystar, Deerness, Orkney.
November 13.

From Mr Les Holley

Sir, Is it not time that the Remembrance Day ritual be laid to rest? I am certain that those who remain do not need a two minutes' silence or an annual ceremony at the Cenotaph to remember their loved ones. It is time to let go and move on.

Yours faithfully,
L. HOLLEY,
23a West Street,
Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex.
November 11.

Crisis in Africa

From the Executive Director of Médecins Sans Frontières (UK)

Sir, I must challenge Sam Kiley's assumption (report, November 12) that a small aid convoy into the beleaguered Zairean town of Goma signals the start of a "fundraising frenzy" among aid agencies.

Despite the rebels' announcements to the contrary, aid agencies still have no access to the hundreds of thousands of people caught in the crossfire outside the town. Our main priority is access and security, not fundraising. Mr Kiley refers to MSF as "French-based". It is, in fact, an international agency, with offices in 19 countries and relief operations in 70 others.

MSF has no links to the French Government, from which it accepts no donations, and has always been loudly critical of France's policy in Africa. As a matter of fact, our emergency department running this operation is based in Amsterdam.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE-MARIE HUBY,
Executive Director,
Médecins Sans Frontières (UK),
124-132 Clerkenwell Road, EC1,
November 12.

A calming influence

From Dr N. D. Whyatt

Sir, I fear that your correspondents have missed the point concerning weather, and especially shipping, forecasts (letters, November 2, 5, 11). I have often listened to the 0033, now the 0055, bulletin in the middle of the Channel, on a wet night, with the

Weekend Money letters, page 43

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Oxford obstacle to business school

From Mr John T. Hall

Sir, There are three main problems with the view (letter, November 11) that universities should return "to the days when the professional academic community had ultimate control over planning and development".

Academic staff are only one of several important groups, including students and the taxpayer, who have an interest in the success of our universities. Second, potential conflicts of interest should be treated with caution; as employees, academic staff have an undeniable financial interest in universities which is incompatible with objective and impartial policy-making. Third, the experience which they bring to higher education is unlikely that of scholars and not institutional planners or managers.

There may be a case for arguing that university planning and development should be made more responsive to academic staff and others. However, greater responsiveness should not be confused with a hand-over of power to the dons, which would hardly make universities the dynamic and outward-looking enterprises they should be.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN T. HALL
(Head, Education Law Department, Eversheds (Solicitors),
Senator House,
85 Queen Victoria Street, EC4.
November 12.

From Mr Wafic Said

Sir, I fear that my inexperience in talking to journalists may have led me inadvertently to mislead your readers. In telling Valerie Grove (interview, November 13) that I had not offered a benefaction to Cambridge University to help develop its business school because somebody got there first, I was giving a flippant reply.

Although I support a number of scholarships at Cambridge (report, November 13), they never approached me in connection with their business school, which has been handsomely supported by Sir Paul Judge. I was specifically approached by Oxford in relation to their business school and was impressed by their concept of a close integration between management studies and the life of the rest of the university.

This is the project I want to support: it is not a second best.

I apologise for any confusion I may have caused.

Yours faithfully,
WAFIC SAID,
27 Avenue Princesse Grace,
MC-98000, Monaco.
November 13.

From Mr Christopher Taylor

Sir, Management in the 21st century will mean the direction of dispersed units — machines in different countries, people in their homes — towards a common end. With modern communications, an organisation does not need a central site nor should Oxford University's business school.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR,
5 Park Crescent, Cuddington,
Northwich, Cheshire.
November 12.

VAT on listed buildings

From Mr R. E. Howard-Vyse

Sir, I warmly applaud the call from Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English Heritage, for traditional roofing materials to be preserved (report, November 14).

As one responsible for a number of Grade II listed buildings, some with stone roofs, I appreciate that his funds are not sufficient to grant aid for their repair, but he might consider the following anomaly: whereas standard-rate VAT is levied and not generally reclaimable on the cost of maintaining listed buildings, the cost of altering such buildings is zero-rated.

Some time ago, just after I had paid a bill for replacing several non-standard and expensive window frames, I met a lady who was delighted that the cost of altering her listed barn into an indoor swimming pool was zero-rated. You may imagine my feelings.

I hope Sir Jocelyn will join me in lobbying the Government to make the maintenance of listed buildings zero-rated for VAT, thereby helping those whose costs are inflated by statutory listings, against which there is, as yet, no appeals procedure.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HOWARD-VYSE,
The Estate Office, Langton,
Malton, North Yorkshire.
November 14.

1, 2, 3, testing

From Mr D. G. Cole

Sir, I was privileged to be present at the installation of Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, as President of the Academy of Experts, which was held in the engine room of Tower Bridge on November 6. Unfortunately, the microphone failed to work and, despite an appeal from the chairman, there was no one among the large number of member experts present, all with their own special skills, with the required expertise to make it function.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. COLE,
46 Gravel Road, Bromley, Kent.

OBITUARIES

BEECHER MOORE

Beecher Moore, yachtsman and yacht designer, died in London on November 11 aged 90. He was born in Rochester, New York, on September 10, 1906.

An American who was much involved with dinghy and dinghy design, Beecher Moore is credited with inventing the dinghy trapeze and the cockpit self-bailer, now used universally on fast racing craft worldwide. He backed and inspired the late British dinghy designer Jack Holt to develop more than 50 sailing classes.

Moore eventually made England his home after a childhood spent commuting to and from across the Atlantic with his father who had business interests in London and New York. However, he will be best remembered for his quiet influence behind the scenes in encouraging Holt to design the first plywood do-it-yourself kit dinghies like the Enterprise, GP14, Cadet, Hornet and Solo in the 1950s. He also, through his work on committees, helped to develop an interest in sailing speed records, and encouraged women to take up the sport internationally.

He lived on both sides of the Atlantic from the age of one, until he entered Harvard to read geology. "I thought that business was a dirty word, and the idea of selling things for more than they cost, quite immoral. I wanted to do something that was ecologically beneficial," he recalled recently. However, he flunked his first year, and his father suggested that he would do better joining him in the family business. The carrot was two six-month stints in Paris and Berlin to develop a European market for the Moore's Modern Methods card index accountancy package that became the mainstay of the family fortune.

Moore, whose stubborn streak was one of his great strengths, spurned the offer, and with parental backing withdrawn, went back to the States to continue his studies which he funded by working as a waiter at night. The protest lasted six months before he returned to London and was welcomed with open arms into the business.

The offer to work in Europe was not repeated, but there were other compensations. Moore's father believed that people had warm beds but uncomfortable homes and that if he got them into work on time they would stay all day. The two of them would start very early each morning to set an example, but finish at lunchtime which allowed Beecher to devote the afternoons to sailing.

His first boat was a 12ft International Dinghy, then an Olympic class, which his father gave him as a reward for passing the common entrance exam.

On his return to London after Harvard, he bought the Thames Rater *Vagabond* for £35. She was already 20 years old but had never won a race. Moore took great delight in transforming her into a winner. He did so by extending her mast by nine feet and having his crew balance the extra press of sail by swinging themselves out on the end of "bell ropes" attached to the top of it.

The invention did not win universal approval, especially from his crew who sometimes fell in. But when Peter Scott and his crewman John Winter stood in for them one day, the two of them were so impressed that they imported the idea to their International 14 *Thunder and Lightning*, and promptly won the Prince of Wales Cup of 1934. The trapeze, as it became known, was then banned and did not reappear until the 1950s.

In 1924, Beecher was one of 2,500 budding amateurs to apply to sail aboard Sir Thomas Sopwith's America's Cup Challenger *Endeavour* after the aviation king's professional crew had refused to race when demands for a pay rise had been declined. Sopwith's idea that each of the 25-strong crew should wear numbers on their backs to help to identify them.

Moore was equally impressed with *Endeavour's* speed, which he believed was faster than the American defender, but he was not impressed by the way the British yacht was run. "It was much like a well run country house where gentlemen owners, instead of not going into the kitchen, never went forward of the mast," he recalled.



Jack Holt and Beecher Moore sailing the prototype Hornet dinghy with its trapeze

The British crew spent much of their time cleaning and preparing their boat before Sopwith arrived on board, and the sailing was treated as the relaxing part of the day. The Americans on the other hand had a second shore crew to prepare their boat and a much greater knowledge of which sails to set in any given wind condition. Thus, not surprisingly, the American yacht, *Ranger*, won the series 4-2.

Beecher so enjoyed the experience that on his return, he commissioned a silver replica of *Endeavour* and donated it

to the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club at Burnham-on-Crouch for a series that is still raced each year to determine the champion of champions among all the dinghy racing classes sailed in Britain.

Moore became a champion helmsman and was offered a place in the British team at the 1936 Olympics but was not prepared to relinquish his American nationality to take it. He won the Prince of Wales Cup as a crew member and was the Hornet world champion on four occasions. He also won the Queen's Cup, three times, the 12ft National

Championship, twice, and the Burton Cup and Merlin Rocker Championship once.

Moore later became vice-president of the Amateur Yacht Research Society and was president of the High Speed Sailing Committee, which was founded to administer sailing records.

Moore's first wife Barbara died in 1971. He is survived by his second wife, Naama, by a stepson and two stepdaughters and by the son of his first marriage, who now runs Jack Holt, the firm he founded with the famous dinghy designer in 1945.

GWEN CATLEY

Gwen Catley, coloratura soprano, died in Hove on November 12 aged 90. She was born in London on February 9, 1906.

GILDA, the hapless daughter of the jester Rigoletto in Verdi's opera, was the role Gwen Catley's considerable fan club most wanted to hear her sing on stage. During the 1940s and 1950s she performed it several hundred times, mainly with the Carl Rosa company as it toured the length and breadth of Britain. Her wider audience, who knew her through concerts, revues and most especially her many BBC broadcasts, often had to be content with Gilda's Act II aria *Caro nome*.

Both the part and the song suited her light, pure coloratura voice perfectly. The impresario Jack Hylton heard her perform it and, immediately recognising its popular appeal, in 1943 put her in a large-scale revue, *Hi-de-Hi!*, in the West End. In those days it was quite normal for singers, such as Dennis Noble and Webster Booth, to move between opera and variety. Gwen Catley joined their number but before doing so declined to appear in front of the normal backdrop and insisted that an appropriate set be built for her Gilda spot. She also had the theatre orchestra augmented to provide the right "operatic" sound. The show ran for well over a year.

Gwendolen Florence Catley was tiny, standing only a shade over 5ft tall, and had the blonde hair and blue eyes of the natural soubrette. But she knew precisely what she wanted and was not just a pretty face and a pretty voice. She had impressive musicianship and she was much helped by her husband, Allen Ford, who was a cellist with the BBC when they married in 1936. He continued to play, but soon realised that his wife was going to be the star in the family and gave her all support.

Despite her fame she appeared neither at Covent Garden nor at Glyndebourne. After her initial success as the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* with the Sadler's Wells company in 1937 she was immediately given the chance to repeat the role at the Garden. This she refused, believing, probably correctly, that at the time her voice

would not be big enough to reach the upper reaches of the house.

At Glyndebourne there was a different obstacle. The Viennese soprano, Irene Eisinger, who also moved between opera and revue, had established a corner in the Mozart roles Catley might have sung — Susanna, Blonde, Despina. Jani Strasser of the music staff offered her no more than singing lessons. She was not impressed and went back to London, where the money was.

It was also the city where she was born and where she grew up. She studied at the



Guildhall School of Music and carried off its gold medal. Catley had a period with the BBC Singers, where she met her future husband, before going to Sadler's Wells to sing the Queen of the Night and Nannetta in *Falstaff*. Both parts were well chosen for her. She was fearless in the top notes of the Mozart and had the charm for Verdi's ingénue, Nannetta's short Act III aria reminding her of a favourite with her.

The outbreak of war probably stopped Gwen Catley widening her repertoire as much as she would have done in different circumstances. There was little opera and she found herself appearing in concert parties and entertaining the troops. It probably also accounted for the fact that she almost always sang in English. During the hostilities it was considered unpatriotic to perform in any other language, although in private she readily delivered Schubert and Strauss songs in the original. There was, though, the chance to play in a couple of films directed by John

Baxter. One was *Theatre Royal*, co-scripted by Bud Flanagan and starring himself and his regular Crazy Gang partner, Chesney Allen.

Gwen Catley had to put up with quite a lot during this period, but sometimes she drew the line. During one of the many *Stage Door Canteen* shows she was lumbered with an incompetent pianist who kept on playing in the wrong key. She drew herself up to her full 5ft and publicly asked him to leave the stage, before sitting down at the piano to accompany herself.

Otherwise she was the most amenable of performers. She was quite happy in the late 1940s to have a spot in the popular radio series *Much-Binding-in-the-Marsh* with Richard Murdoch and Kenneth Horne. There was a running joke about a performance of the quartet from *Rigoletto* — what else? When it came to the great moment Horne and Murdoch sang a duet, but there was a back-up trio of professional singers in the studio to support Catley. By 1954 she was celebrating her 60th birthday. She was also making a quantity of 78s for EMI, specialising in the French coloratura repertory.

One of Catley's teachers at the Guildhall, Julian Kimball, had forecast that her career would last about twenty years. He was right. She left the Carl Rosa in 1957 and thereafter had a successful career in teaching, which her outgoing personality suited. She specialised in helping singers with temporary vocal problems. "Go along to Gwen, she'll sort you out," was one of the adages in the profession. At the same time she gave singing lessons to actors who were required to warble a bit in their latest part.

In common with some other sopranos she was secretive about her age and derived some pleasure from a radio programme celebrating her 85th birthday when she was well past that date. Her legacy remains. Earlier this month a CD was released on the Dutton label called *Stars of English Opera* and there is Catley singing the Queen of the Night and, even better, being a willing Zerlina to Dennis Noble's Don Giovanni in *La ci darem* — or rather, *Give me thy hand*.

Her husband survives her.

RODERICK WALTER

Roderick Walter, barrister and businessman, died on October 16 aged 85. He was born on February 25, 1911.

RODDY WALTER was the second and only surviving son of John Walter V, the last of his line to be co-chief proprietor of *The Times*. Since the paper's founding by John Walter I in 1785, it had owed its growth and pre-eminence very largely to successive generations of the Walter family and, although in 1908 Lord Northcliffe had obtained a dominant interest, on his death in 1922 his shares had been bought back by Roddy Walter's father in a minority partnership with the Haver branch of the Astor family.

However, the eventual loss of the Walter family connection with *The Times* in 1966, coupled with his father's foolish penchant for outlandish schemes — he had invested substantially in Droitwich Spa, for instance, he alone envisaging this Midlands backwater as an English Ables-Bains — left Roddy without a definite aim in life and, at best, a quizzical view of business affairs.

War disrupted what might otherwise have proved a fulfilling career at the Bar and it was only some years later that he was able to establish himself as a legal adviser to the engineering conglomerate of

John Brown. There he was charged with drafting and amending multimillion pound contracts in the engineering, oil, chemical and construction industries. Yet the complexities and complications of modern business life and commercial practice often left him bemused; and it is as a man of charm, warmth and genuine affection that he will be chiefly remembered.

Educated at Eton and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Roderick Walter spent

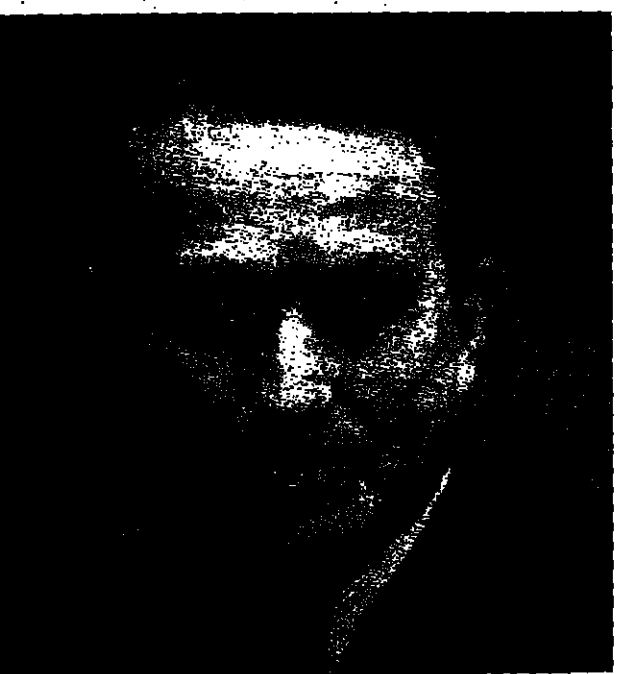
the Second World War as one of the early members of the SAS. He was one of the first, apart from the Long Range Desert Patrol, to operate behind enemy lines.

At one point he was arrested by a detachment of Americans who apparently had no knowledge of SAS operations and, suspecting him of treachery, were on the verge of dispatching him against the nearest wall. Fortunately, General Patton himself heard of Walter's predicament and intervened on his behalf in the nick of time.

When the war was over, Walter was appointed to the British Embassy in Madrid as press attaché. He had always loved Spain, ever since as an eight-year-old boy he had been sent by his father (who had also served in the Madrid Embassy) to stay with the *Times* correspondent there, but, perhaps misguided, he decided to leave to accept an offer to work as a legal adviser first to Karl Landeager and then to Stavros Niarchos. Neither proved a happy assignment and Walter found himself strongly out of sympathy with the labyrinthine manoeuvres with which both men sought to attain their ends.

It was with no regret that he left this phase of his life to take up a position with the John Brown company, where his overseas knowledge and his mastery of Spanish, French and German proved invaluable. He was also an adroit cartoonist and his notepad at meetings would always be dotted with witty drawings.

Roddy Walter was married three times, first to Amicie de Burgh-White, second to Xandra, now Lady de Trafford, and lastly to Deborah, formerly the wife of Patrick de Laszlo and daughter of the 1st Viscount Greenwood. She died in 1980. He is survived by the two daughters of his second marriage.



Latest wills

Sir Peter James Frederick Green, of Sutton, Ipswich, chairman of Janson Green Holdings 1986-89, chairman of Lloyds 1980-83, left estate valued at £2,509,780 net.

Alfred John Farrer Doulton, of Salscombe, South Devon, housemaster of Dulwich College, head of statistical team and controller, Independent Schools Information Service 1974-80, left estate valued at £641,887 net.

Sir Richard Guy Carne Rasch, of Lower Woodford, Salisbury, Wiltshire, member of HM Body Guard Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms (1968-88), left estate valued at £3,460,745 net.

Sir Alan Lewis, of Badingham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, left estate valued at £2,385,511 net.

Hugh Donnan, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £206,158 net.

George Frederick Dyson, of Hoby, Leeds, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,077,602 net.

He left £10,000 to Hoby Methodist Church.

Sarah Ann Deary Coleman, of

Newcastle upon Tyne, left estate valued at £2,325,422.

She left £50,000 to Newcastle University for awards to engineering students.

Walter Hugh Jacques, farmer, of Gurness, North Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £1,110,532 net.

Alfred Robert Boston, of Longdon, Staffordshire, left estate valued at £2,834,705 net.

Doris Margaret Gale, of Dallington, Northampton, left estate valued at £997,738 net.

She left her residuary estate equally between the Anglican Church of England, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church, the Northern Baptist Children's Society, the Northern Baptist Association of Youth Clubs, and the Dorset and County Association for the Blind.

Donald Moore Pilkington, of Bredwardine, Hereford, left estate valued at £1,030,588 net.

He left £2,000 to the Parkinson's Disease Society.

Francis Edward West Barnes, of Maybury, Woking, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,048,541 net.

Hilda High, of Hadley Wood,

Barnet, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £4,097,635 net.

Lillian Grace Henson, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,383,761 net.

She left her residuary estate to the Anglican Church of England, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Children's Society, the Northern Baptist Association of Youth Clubs, and the Dorset and County Association for the Blind.

Geoffrey Cranston Chignall, of Sarraat, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,640,984 net.

Jeremy Christopher Dart, of Maldencombe, Torquay, left estate valued at £410,748 net.

Arthur Francis Patrick McCullagh, of Wood, Wareham, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,295,399 net.

He left £20,000 to the Parish Council at Wood with further financial provision from his residuary estate to be divided equally between the Mary Curie Memorial Foundation, the British Legion, the Help the Aged and the Brook Hospital for Animals.

John Robert Stephen Carson, of London NW4, left estate valued at £2,728,766 net.

He left £25,000 to his friend Howard

Wentworth, £25,000 and his Andy Warhol painting of Marilyn Monroe to his friends Brian and Christine Clark, £25,000 to his secretary Linda Collins and £200,000 to a charitable institution chosen by his executor Stephen Rajabek.

Nita King, of London NW8, left estate valued at £2,679,080 net.

Samuel Alexander Riding, of Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire, left estate valued at £1,017,315 net.

He left £5,000 to St Michael's Church, Aughton, £1,000 to the RSPB.

Margaret Grace Yates, of Hornsea, East Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,290,562 net.

She left £500 each to the National Trust, Hull and East Riding Institute for the Blind, Guide Dogs for the Blind, RSL, Hornsea Panchayat Church Council, Martin House Hospice for Terminally Ill Children, Wetherby, Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign and the North Humberside Historic Project.

Daphne Drummond, of Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,534,820 net.

She left £2,000 to Hale Golf Club.

Ronald Denis Lea, of Leicester, left estate valued at £1,299,091 net.

He left £5,000 each to the Royal Leicestershire, Rutland and Weymouth Society for the Blind, Leicestershire County Association for the Deaf, Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Donald Kenyon, MBE, cricketer, died on November 12 aged 72. He was born on May 15, 1924.

FOR some years after the Second World War there was no better place for the cricket lover to be, especially the connoisseur of fine batsmanship, than on the Worcester ground with the sun shining and Don Kenyon in full cry. He was one of the most majestic stroke-makers of those days, though this is not reflected in his modest Test record.

The Kenyon cover drive left nothing to be desired, and the sound of his hooking had a booming ring to it. In a career that spanned 21 years, from 1946 to 1967, he scored 1,000 runs in a season 19 times, passing 2,000 on seven of them. In 1961 he helped to end Worcestershire's years of waiting by leading them to their first county championship title, and the 33,940 runs he made for them still constitute a record for the county.

With war breaking out when he was only 15, Kenyon was into his twenties before he got into the Worcestershire side, and he wasted no time in establishing his credentials.

In only his fourth home match he scored 152 not out against Warwickshire, and *Widzen* was soon describing his play as "dashing". Sturdy built and with a healthy confidence in his obvious nat-

DONALD KENYON



ural talent, he came to be recognised, together with Dods of Essex, Emmott of Gloucestershire and Gimblett of Somerset, as one of the most entertainingly forceful opening batsmen in the country. They all gave the bowlers a chance, but a lot of trouble too.

It was fairly certain that Kenyon would eventually play for England, and this he did in three different series. He had three Tests against India in India in the winter of 1951-52, two against Australia

as Hutton's opening partner in 1953 and three against South Africa as Graveney's in 1955.

But in only one of his 15 innings for England, in the first Test match at Trent Bridge in 1955, did he do himself justice, his 87 being the highest score in a match which England won by an innings. With Australia's bowling being opened at the time by Lindwall and Miller and South Africa's by Helne and Adcock, no one played

against them without being severely tested. That was Kenyon's lot; but his failure to bridge the gap from county to Test cricket may have had more to do with temperament than technique.

He made up for it, though, by what he did for Worcestershire, having arrived when it was customary for an amateur to have charge, he became county captain as a professional in 1959, three years before the distinction between amateurs and professionals was annulled.

His style of captaincy was quietly effective; he had, in Flavel and Coldwell, one of the best opening attacks in the country, and from 1961 onwards a brilliant county batsman in Tom Graveney. They were halcyon days for Worcestershire, with the captain himself leading many a successful run chase.

From 1965 until 1972 Kenyon was an England selector, and the presidency of Worcestershire came his way in 1986, by which time he had been appointed MBE for his services to cricket. All told, he scored 37,002 first-class runs, which put him 27th in the all-time list, and he made 74 hundreds.

He collapsed and died on the county ground at Worcester where he was about to show his own film of Worcestershire's world tour of 1964. His wife Jean and their two daughters survive him.

ON THIS DAY

November 16, 1860



Attempts were made to incorporate Garibaldi's men into the national army, but many of them wanted only to get home

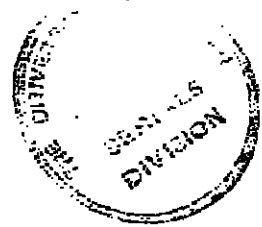
RETIREMENT OF GARIBALDI

NAPLES, NOV. 9.

Finis. The day before yesterday King Victor Emmanuel made his triumphal entry into Naples in the company of Garibaldi. Yesterday Garibaldi presented to him the result of the plebiscite, and resigned the Dictatorship. This morning, at dawn, Garibaldi embarked, with his immediate staff, on board the Washington for the island of Capri. This ends one of the last and most remarkable phases of the struggle for Italian union and independence, and the man who has filled the world with his name for the last six months returns to eat the potatoes which he had sown before setting out to conquer the kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Although it was his own will that it should be so, and although he parted on the most friendly terms with the King, no one who has looked on from afar at the events which raised the Italian hero to his exalted position can help being impressed by

when he left was more the idol of the people than when he came. Master of half of Italy, he with one stroke of the pen surrendered this mastery to make Victor Emmanuel King of Italy. After the ceremony of the surrender of the Dictatorship, Garibaldi withdrew with the King, and the King made another attempt to keep him. He proposed that he should have full powers to reorganize his army in South Italy. Garibaldi thought he could not use these full powers while the civil authorities would be there to control him at every step; besides which he was anxious to keep his freedom of action, which alone made it possible for him to do what he has done. Giuseppe Garibaldi could do many things which a Marshal Garibaldi could not do. This morning Garibaldi embarked. Although it was before daybreak, and everything had been done to avoid demonstrations, numbers of people were there to see him depart. He was more moved than I, perhaps, ever saw him, when he took leave of his friends.

0181-992 7000



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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 1996



Walter Hasselkus, chief executive of Rover, left, with Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, after BMW's announcement yesterday

BMW protects 6,500 jobs with £400m Rover plant

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BMW is to build a £400 million Rover engine plant in the West Midlands, which it says will safeguard up to 6,500 jobs in the car industry, after last-minute cash incentives from the Government.

The deal, which will be the first to produce BMW engines outside Germany, has hung in the balance for several months while the German company and Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, haggled over the sweeteners available. Mr Lang said yesterday that the offer of "a little more money" had beaten opposition from Austria, which had offered a £60 million package of assistance.

Britain's offer is thought to have topped £50 million.

Agreement was struck last night after what Mr Lang termed "hard-headed" discussions. No new jobs are expected to come out of the new plant.

The Government is refusing to detail the full extent of assistance at present, although £22.5 million has been given by the regional selective assistance scheme and £20 million by English Partnerships, the development agency. Further cash aid will come on top of that for training.

Mr Lang said that the complete package was below that offered by Austria. In a clear

swipe at the 48-hour European working time directive, he said that the choice of Britain was an endorsement of its flexible workforce and "light burdens on business". However, Rover works a 37-hour week and BMW is unlikely to have been swayed by Britain's support for high working-time flexibility. What will have driven its decision is the lower wage bill in Britain, general lower costs than Austria and financial inducements offered by the Government.

Rover says that 1,500 jobs are directly protected by the new plant. These are jobs at Rover's Longbridge engine plant. Beyond that, 5,000 are

forecast to be secured in the automotive supply industry from the new plant. Longbridge is to shift concentration from engine production to vehicle assembly, while Rover denies any intention to scale down the plant.

The new engine manufacturer will be at Hams Hall in north Warwickshire. Construction will start soon on the greenfield site, with production expected to begin at the end of the century. Its full capacity will be 500,000 engines a year. Longbridge currently makes 290,000 engines annually.

Walter Hasselkus, Rover chief executive, said the company would balance produc-

tion between its plants and was unable to offer the prospect of any new jobs from the deal. But industry watchers view the development as a signal of BMW's commitment to Rover. Dr Hasselkus said the new plant reinforced BMW's European strategy. He said that the company could have gained a much higher grant outside the European Union.

The Government believes the cash inducements offered to BMW are unlikely to be queried by Brussels, although its award comes amid a trend of escalating payments by governments to attract inward investment.

Four for trial over \$1m money "wash"

By ROBERT MILLER
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

FOUR MEN were charged yesterday with money-laundering offences that involved using London to "wash" at least \$1 million from the proceeds of a US bank fraud before transferring the "clean" funds to Austria.

The City of London Police's Financial Investigation Unit (FIU), established in May to counter money-laundering in the Square Mile, said that the charges were a first for the new unit.

It is understood that the investigation, headed by Detective Chief Inspector Tony Thomas, was initiated when a UK bank tipped off the authorities. Under special disclosure rules, banks, building societies and investment houses have a duty to report to the authorities any suspicious transactions.

The four are Leslie Goodwin, 47, and unemployed, from Lostwithiel, Cornwall; Jason Radak, 49, from Richmond upon Thames, Surrey; John Butler-Rees, 47, an accountant from Knightsbridge, central London; and Anthony Adjei, 45, a financial adviser from north London.

The charges relate to the movement of nearly \$500,000 into a London account at the Greenwich branch of Midland Bank in the name of JBR Asset Management, allegedly under the control of Mr Butler-Rees. A further \$300,000 was moved from London into an account at the Bank of Austria in Vienna in the name of Refina Kredit Gas. A further charge concerns a conspiracy to defraud NatWest Bank contrary to common law.

The Austrian police and the FBI continue to liaise with the City of London Police in the ongoing investigation.

WEEKEND MONEY



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Anne Ashworth on the next building society windfalls

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More paperwork for the victims of mis-selling



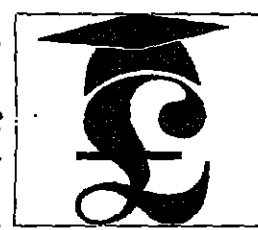
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BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	3958.2	(+32.1)
FTSE All Share	3295.5	(+12.8)
Nikkei	20929.73	(+101.31)
DAX	3364.43	(+51.43)
S&P Composite	740.94	(+5.00)
Federal Funds	5.75%	(0.00%)
Long Bond	100.15	(+0.10)
Yield	6.49%	(0.42%)
3-month Interbank	6.75%	(0.00%)
Life long gilts	110.14	(+0.04)
Future (Dec)	110.14	(+0.04)
New York	1.5650*	(1.6845)
London	1.5685	(1.6834)
DM	2.5134	(2.5105)
FF	1.2750*	(1.2757)
SFR	2.1306	(2.1198)
Yen	185.14	(184.74)
£ index	92.0	(91.9)

London	1.5685*	(1.5000)
DM	2.5134	(2.5105)
FF	1.2750*	(1.2757)
SFR	2.1306	(2.1198)
Yen	185.14	(184.74)
£ index	92.0	(91.9)
Tokyo close Yen	111.43	
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$23.00	(\$23.00)
London close	\$374.75	(\$382.45)

Regional boost

Orders increased in eight of the 11 CBI regions in the past four months, according to the latest regional trends survey. Northern Ireland and Wales led Britain in winning new orders.

German warning on currency goal

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY still has not done enough to hit the Maastricht treaty's deficit limit and so qualify for the single European currency, the country's Council of Economic Advisers said.

The council's "five wise men" forecast that the total public sector deficit would be DM122.5 billion, or 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product, in 1997, the test year. The Maastricht limit is 3 per cent.

The council welcomed this week's agreement of a further DM3 billion in spending cuts, but one of its members said that Germany would have to find further cuts of up to DM12 billion.

Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister, yesterday rejected the council's warnings, saying that Germany

would meet the 3 per cent limit "with an ample margin of safety". But Oskar Lässig, the Bundesbank's chief economist, said that the wise men's report was a warning that Germany would have to work hard to achieve the deficit target. He said it would be a close call.

The council said it could not rule out a delay to the start of monetary union, currently scheduled for January 1, 1999. However, it added that any delay would not mean the collapse of the whole project. American industrial output dropped 0.5 per cent in October, partly because of strikes in car manufacturing plants in Canada and the US during the month. This was the first fall in industrial production for seven months.

Railtrack soothes investor qualms

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILTRACK sought to reassure its 370,000 private shareholders yesterday that their investment is not under threat from an incoming Labour government.

John Edmunds, chief executive, said the board's contacts with Andrew Smith, the Shadow Transport Secretary, suggested they shared a common vision of the future. "Our policy objective to carry more passengers and freight exactly corresponds with theirs," Mr Edmunds said. "We don't want to revisit the stale old arguments about privatisation, we want people to judge us on what we have achieved in the private sector."

Labour's formal position is that it will take a controlling stake in Railtrack but few in the City or the rail industry

believe this commitment will remain a priority. As Railtrack announced its first interim results as a private company yesterday, the partly-paid shares rose 37.2p, to a high of 322.5p, against an issue price in May of 200p, or 100p for small investors.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30, rose to £173 million from £98 million. The underlying, like-for-like increase was a 23 per cent rise to £173 million. Profits from property sales were £23 million, and there was a £4 million gain from payments under the railway performance regime. Turnover rose to £1.2 billion (£1.14 billion). The interim payout is 7.3p (6.8p) a share.

Tempus, page 30

Power bids to fan 'fat cats' row

By OLIVER AUGUST



Askew: big payoff

TWO regional electricity companies currently in takeover negotiations look set to become embroiled in the latest row over multi-million payoffs for boardroom "fat cats". At East Midlands Electricity, which agreed an offer by Dominion Resources of America this week, directors could net up to half a million pounds each if they leave the board. Norman Askew, chief executive, is earning more than £200,000 a year on a two-year rolling contract. East Midlands' directors also stand to gain from their share options, which will grow 25 per cent in

value if the takeover is not held up by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. At Northern Electric, currently the subject of a hostile bid by America's CE Electric, compensation payments could be even higher. The likely dismissal of the board in the case of a successful hostile offer would trigger payoffs well in excess of one million pounds. David Morris, the chairman, can expect a £600,000 send-off, plus share options worth £800,000. Labour, proposing a windfall tax on utilities, has linked "fat cat" payoffs to growing

public frustration with the power companies. John Balle, Shadow Energy Minister, said: "People are absolutely exasperated. Those at the top of the utilities make large benefits, while the customers are an afterthought." But Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said the controversy over payments would have no bearing on his decision over the two pending bids. He said: "Mergers and takeovers are separately considered. Adjustments to boards are matters for the boards."

Executive Voice, page 28

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M&G	NO	1.25%	NIL	YES	7.13%	7.25%
Perpetual	NO	0.80%	0.25%	NO	7.25%	7.25%
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Windfall tax inconsistent with stakeholder society

Someone once said: "I believe we should all pay our tax bill with a smile. I tried — but they wanted cash!" I suspect that Labour's planned windfall tax will cost all utilities a great deal more than a smile. What is not clear, however, is how much it will cost or whom it will affect.

Tony Blair and the Labour Party have articulated their vision of a stakeholder society, where British industry rewards shareholders, employees and customers. We at Yorkshire Electricity have repeatedly and publicly supported this concept, and believe that we have a collective responsibility towards a fourth category of stakeholder — the inhabitants of our region.

However, as directors of a publicly quoted company, our primary duty is to our shareholders — and in Yorkshire Electricity's case more

than 100,000 of our shareholders are customers, while the great majority of our employees (at all levels) are also shareholders. For this reason, we are obliged to question the ethics and mechanics of a tax that would impact adversely on so many of our stakeholders.

Next Thursday's House of Commons debate on the windfall tax will throw the spotlight, once again, on to the non-specific nature of Labour's plans. The Government, no doubt, will wish to appeal to the eight million individual shareholders of the companies that Labour has so far targeted.

Perhaps we should rename it the "stakeholder tax", or the "nest-egg tax", or even the "pensioner's tax" — a tax that will attack their investments inevitably harms them.

The truth is that since privatisation

all of the regional electricity companies (Recs) have improved efficiency and customer service standards; significantly reduced costs in real terms; rewarded shareholders; and improved employee pay and working conditions.

At Yorkshire Electricity, we now offer the UK's lowest domestic prices: have one of the best efficiency records in the sector; have dramatically reduced disconnections and complaints; and were the first Rec to introduce freehome customer help lines. This is a clear illustration of how we are rewarding our stakeholders.

Yet, in the absence of clarification, we are being forced to operate in a climate of uncertainty. This impacts upon our planning, budgeting and recruitment — and adversely upon our share price.

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Malcolm Chatwin

This is not an environment conducive to the effective running of one of Yorkshire's largest companies. A by-product of a lower share price is to make Yorkshire Electricity and the remaining independent

Recs more vulnerable to takeover, as we are currently seeing. Would a new owner continue to support all of our stakeholders and the region in the way that we have?

In 1977, Joe Haines, of the *Daily Mirror*, said: "It's no use saying the Labour Government works. If one and a half million people don't."

This time around Labour promises that it will devote the proceeds of its windfall tax to training and creating jobs for 250,000 people nationally. In practice, this stakeholder tax would almost inevitably result in reduced efficiency through reduced investment in our core distribution and generation businesses.

This will result in a significant slowdown in job creation throughout the industry, and, ultimately, depending upon the level of the tax, in job losses — which is entirely

contrary to what Labour is seeking to achieve in the first place.

In the long term this could mean higher prices and will detract from Yorkshire Electricity's present position as the lowest cost supplier to our domestic customers.

Another by-product of this stakeholder tax is that foreign investors will think twice before doing business in the UK, on the basis that a socialist government will levy what amounts to a retrospective tax on successfully managed businesses. Rumour has it that the Clinton Administration is already lobbying against what it sees as a discriminatory tax on US companies.

It is also important to remember that, since privatisation, Yorkshire Electricity has paid, on average, £90 million per year to the Government, compared with an average of

£41 million pre-privatisation. Should the Labour party decide to proceed, in spite of the growing criticism of its stakeholder tax, then what is needed — before a constructive dialogue can begin — is for Labour to define what they categorise as a utility. Will this stakeholder tax be confined to the water and electricity sectors, or will it be applied to other privatised industries?

In summary, the retrospective clawback of efficiency gains that have already benefited all of our stakeholders, and have contributed significant amounts of tax, is ill-conceived, inequitable and inconsistent with the stakeholder society that we serve.

Malcolm Chatwin is group chief executive of Yorkshire Electricity.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.90	2.94
Austria Sch	13.65	13.75
Belgium Fr	54.68	50.38
Canada \$	2.33	2.17
Cyprus Cyp	0.795	0.741
Denmark Kr	10.19	9.40
Finland Mk	6.13	5.49
France Fr	8.28	8.23
Germany DM	2.85	2.45
Greece Dr	411	386
Hong Kong \$	12.50	12.50
Iceland	115	95
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Italy Lit	2638	2463
Japan Yen	199.80	183.80
Malta	0.631	0.576
Netherlands Gld	2.895	2.735
New Zealand \$	2.49	2.27
Norway Kr	11.07	10.27
Portugal Esc	264.50	246.00
S Africa Rd	8.35	7.55
Spain Ptas	217.50	204.50
Sweden Kr	11.65	10.85
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.07
Turkey Lira	18000	18100
USA \$	1.763	1.633

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC.

Different rates apply to transactions in cheques. Rates as at close of trading.

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Thanks to Peter Wood of Direct Line, much of the traditional financial services industry is now under siege from direct sellers. Other industries, including food, computers, and records, are also succumbing to the assault...

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Ulster and Wales lead orders race

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN Ireland and Wales are leading the country in winning new manufacturing orders, according to the Confederation of British Industry's latest regional trends survey.

Orders increased in eight of the 11 UK regions in the past four months, with Northern Ireland, Wales, East Anglia and Scotland seeing the greatest growth. Orders fell in the South West, Yorkshire and Humberside and the East Midlands but the declines were modest.

The survey, produced with Business Strategies, the regional economics consultancy, said that export demand over the past four months was strongest in Northern Ireland, followed by the South West. In the UK as a whole, growth in domestic orders outstripped that of export orders.

Output rose in eight regions, with firms in Northern Ireland, Wales and the South East reporting the fastest rate of growth. Output fell in only three regions — Yorkshire and Humberside, the North and East Anglia.

Looking ahead, all 11 re-

gions expect orders to increase over the next four months although the North is only looking for a slight increase. Most optimistic are firms in Wales and East Anglia.

Manufacturers in all regions except the North expect output to rise over the coming four months. Yorkshire and Humberside and East Anglia are most optimistic.

The news on the prices front is relatively good. Unit costs fell over the past four months in seven regions and seven regions expect unit costs to decline over the next four months. Manufacturers' domestic prices fell in eight regions over the latest period and are expected to fall in five regions over the next four months.

Of the six areas predicting price rises in the coming months, only firms in the East Midlands, the North West and Yorkshire, and Humberside expected rises to be any more than trivial.

Business confidence rose in eight out of 11 regions over the past four months, with manufacturers in East Anglia and Scotland the most optimistic.



Graham Lockyer is leading Triplex Lloyd's bid

Colt float chases £68m

By ERIC REGULY

COLT, the American telecoms company that competes with BT and Mercury for government and large business customers, said that it expects to raise as much as £68 million in its flotation and will use the funds to expand its network in London and Frankfurt.

The flotation will value Colt, or City of London Telecommunications, at between £240

million and £272 million, with an indicated price range of 225p-255p a share. Morgan Stanley and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson will set the price next month and the shares will trade on the London Stock Exchange and America's Nasdaq market.

Colt will also raise £75 million in bank loans and £150 million in high-yield debt.

Triplex bid lifts William Cook shares

By KEITH RODGERS

SHARES in William Cook, the steel castings group, soared yesterday after Triplex Lloyd, the rival engineering company, launched a £57.7 million hostile takeover bid.

The cash-and-shares offer valued William Cook shares at 309p, against Thursday's closing price of 240p. The shares closed yesterday at 325p.

Graham Lockyer, Triplex Lloyd chief executive, said that William Cook shareholders were "suffering from their management's loss of ambition and its failure to pursue new growth opportunities successfully".

William Cook swiftly rejected the bid. Andrew Cook, chairman, said: "We're being bid for by someone who's trying to steal shares from the shareholders. I'm determined that shareholders will not be swindled."

The offer is of seven new Triplex Lloyd shares and £13.50 in cash for every nine Cook shares. There is an alternative cash offer of 295p a share.

Triplex Lloyd said that the acquisition would generate £15 million of extra profit a year, and expects it to enhance earnings in the first full year, excluding one-off costs.

Tempos, page 30

Executive post for James Murdoch

THE NEWS CORPORATION, parent company of *The Times*, announced yesterday the appointment of James Murdoch as Vice-President, Music and New Media. He will be responsible for iGuide, News Corporation's soon-to-be relaunched online company.

In this capacity he will be involved with setting iGuide's future online strategy, and integrating this with News Corporation's existing business and its other online ventures. His music-related duties will specifically include the start-up company, Rawkus Entertainment, and News Corporation's relationship with Mushroom Records, among other ventures. He will report to Greg Clark, president of the News Technology Group.

Inspirations warning

INSPIRATIONS, the UK's fourth largest tour operator, has issued a warning to shareholders that it expects to incur a loss this year and may not pay a final dividend. It was the second profit warning in as many months. In October, the group had said that it would break even at the year-end. Analysts had been forecasting profits of around £7.7 million. The company blamed a drop in bookings in September, which left it with surplus capacity, and maintenance problems at Caledonian Airways, its subsidiary, which gave rise to additional costs of £14 million. At one stage yesterday, the company's shares fell 6p, to 73½p, recording a new low for the year.

Avonmore raises funds

AVONMORE, the food group based in the Irish Republic, is raising \$100 million through an issue of preferred securities to reduce debt and fund expansion. The 7.99 per cent cumulative preferred securities were sold on a private placement basis to institutional investors. Avonmore's debts were about £170 million at the end of 1995. The company wants to expand in the dairy and pigmeat sectors in the UK, the US dairy sector, and the food-ingredient sectors in Europe and America.

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: JOHN McKEOWN

When a trip to the local is all part of the job

Martin Waller says the man in charge of Allied Domecq's pubs values the old-fashioned touch

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

A VISIT to his Belfast birthplace a while ago by John McKeown saw a neighbour asking him how things were in the hotels business.

His parents, he discovered, both testate Presbyterians, had been unwilling to admit to their only child was in the licensed trade. Hotels, somehow, seemed more respectable.

As Mr McKeown tells the tale, he lights up the third cigarette of the hour. A half-pint glass is in front of him, never to be finished: in preference, a bottle of Chablis is being gently uncorked to go with a sandwich lunch. The conversation will later drift to the wiles he uses in the McKeown household to slide off and indulge in his third vice, the horses.

So those Presbyterian virtues never really caught on, which is probably as well for a man who makes his living visiting pubs. Indeed, he reveals in it. "I can put in hours and hours in a social environment," he says. "I couldn't put in those hours behind a desk."

Mr McKeown is managing director of Allied Domecq Inns, the biggest collection of boozers in the country. This is not to denigrate them, because this is exactly what the estate is, a collection of 3,800 hostilities where the emphasis is firmly on old-fashioned values of drinking, talking, shooting some pool and occasionally making a fool of yourself in front of the karaoke machine.

Not a new-wave wine bar among them, no child-friendly theme restaurants, and all by corporate design. A year ago Allied Domecq, the drinks group that also owns Drunkin' Idiots, Baskin-Robbins, ice-cream and a raft of spirits brands

such as Beefeater gin and Teacher's whisky, decided to divide its pub estate into two. The leisure side got, for example, Big Steak Pubs and Wacky Warehouses, the latter theme pubs where parents are encouraged to take the children along and park them in a padded cage while the civilised drinking takes place outside. For both these brands, money is needed to convert or expand from existing, non-specialised pubs. That money comes, in part, from Mr McKeown's pubs.

"I run more pubs than anybody else in the country," he says proudly, "and since the restructuring they are all locals."

Allied's estate had previously been spread across various regional brands such as Ansell's and Tetley's. The idea was to create chains of similar pubs and allow their respective managements to concentrate on each specialised chain. "Take a £25,000 a week turnover Wacky Warehouse," he says.

I can put in hours and hours in a social environment

The type of person you need to run them and the type of skills he or she has are totally different from a £7,000 to £8,000 a week local.

What we have to do is to make sure that we keep the locals from declining and indeed see if we can grow them without much capital. That will throw off cash for renovation in areas where the market is growing, such as eating out.

"Where we will grow is taking trade from under-estimated locals that don't offer as much as we do."

So Mr McKeown must manage the less go-go portion of the estate to produce cash that can be used to expand the other half, such as those Wacky Warehouses. His pubs must be run without spending too much to squeeze out the maximum revenue from existing clientele; these are predominantly from the C2 and D social classes. It is not a prospect he seems to find dispiriting.

"My locals are what obsess me completely. Whether it's a discotheque, a karaoke night or a raffle, you are trying to have something happening all the time to get people visiting — you've got to give them something to make their visit worthwhile."

Although an Allied Domecq man of 24 years' standing — he joined as a management trainee — he arrived there by something of a zig-zag route. A Protestant background in Belfast, where his father was a clerk for the Gas Board, led to Christ's College in Cambridge and a degree in history.

Christ's in 1969 was probably the ideal place for an upwardly mobile grammar school lad from the provinces, who could expect to be



John McKeown, the sociable managing director of Allied Domecq Inns, is never more at home than when he is visiting one of his company's 3,800 public houses

taught by plenty of examples of the breed. Even so, adjustments were difficult: he arrived on his first day, in those heady times of student radicalism, in a three-piece suit.

One wonders, on meeting Mr McKeown, whether his easy sociability was of necessity acquired there. He is certainly sociable enough now; he is enormously voluble, speaking in ready formed sentences, and avoids awkward questions simply by continuing to talk through them.

His favourite period was the English Civil War, and he retains an enormous admiration for Cromwell — "Without him I'm not sure we would have had par-

liamentary democracy; Charles I was a congenial liar" — which, he admits, does not sit easy with Irish friends. He retains some left-leaning sentiments, even if he admits these have been tempered by the effects of taxation on a rising salary.

"I would have loved to be an MP. It was a great ambition of mine, but I could never make up my mind which party."

This might not prove such a hindrance in today's political climate. Whatever, on graduation, a clutch of businesses came knocking with places on management training schemes, including Courtaulds and Gallaher, the cigarette maker. He chose Allied. Mr McKeown

admits, simply because its scheme looked more interesting than the rest. It included six months running a pub.

Within a few years he was area manager for Liverpool, and familiar with the seamy side of the pubs business.

"Scousers when they are on your side are absolutely the best people in the world. When they decide they don't like you or the company, they are very difficult."

Many of Allied's pubs are by their nature in difficult areas, on rough housing estates, and it is all too easy for one to acquire a bad name, and a reputation as a reliable source of drugs, violence, or both.

"There are very few pubs genuinely unmanageable

but there are one or two, in which case we don't want them. The key to the pub is if the majority of people who use that pub, the decent people, aren't big enough to close out the minority — if the trouble-makers become more than half," says Mr McKeown.

In Allied's case, many of the worst were disposed of as a result of government-inspired moves to make the big brewers sell large chunks of their tied estate. Cynics have suggested this gave those brewers an excuse to accelerate their plans to refine their pub chains while providing someone to blame for any forced sales. It does not seem to have done Allied any harm — full-year profits

from all its pubs, reported this week, were up 13 per cent.

Mr McKeown disagrees with the cynics, and also with the much-quoted statistic that Britain still has some 10,000 pubs more than the market will bear. For even the roughest inner-city pub, he says, no alternative use has been found that will provide the same value.

Instead, the trade has had to improve standards of service to the customer. "Pubs used not to give particularly wonderful service in the old days. Remember how you used to return from America and say, wasn't the service wonderful? Now I think we are every bit as good as everywhere else."

Crystal-clear reminders of Bonnie Prince Charlie

The Drambuie Liquor Company, the family-owned firm based just outside Edinburgh, has always been proud of its Scottish heritage. The origins of its product lie with the MacKinnon clan of Skye, who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie 250 years ago when he was on the run after Culloden.

It is claimed that the Prince, carrying no possessions, gave a secret recipe to one of the clan as a reward. The recipe was for a personal liqueur, a mixture of herbs, honey and whisky — and this, it is said, is what is known today as Drambuie, or "the drink that satisfies".

Since its foundation in 1906, the company has built up a diverse collection of fine artworks, many acquired in the past ten years and all reflecting the culture and history of Scotland.

Special care has been taken to gather pieces produced by the supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Among a collection of paintings, prints and medals, it is perhaps the glassware that is most impressive — fine decorative and painted glasses made by Jacobites during the 18th century.

The Jacobite cause was concerned with issues of loyalty. And it was a matter of concern both to the exiled Stuarts and their followers, that this loyalty should be expressed in the written word, in poetry, in the observation and commemoration of certain dates but, above all, by the commissioning, the cherishing and the possession of works of art.

These works, particularly those bearing a likeness of the exiled James, acted as a

surrogate for the affections and loyalty of the "subject".

It was inevitable, therefore, that the exiled Jacobite "court", first based outside Paris and later in Rome, took a great interest in the production and distribution of works of art. Perhaps the most enduring and beautiful artistic legacy of the era — much of it produced after the failed 1745 rising — is the engraved glass that forms the core of the company's art collection.

The invention of lead crystal in the 1670s meant that

English glass was the finest and clearest available and by the mid-18th century, drinking glasses were in wide use. Particularly for celebrations, Jacobites thrived on celebrations and many of the serious groups of the 1720s and 1730s had become little more than drinking clubs by the 1750s.

One of the Drambuie company's finest pre-1745 pieces is an "amen" glass. Engraved entirely by hand with a diamond point, the glass bears verses of the Jacobite anthem surrounding a cipher for "James VIII" of

Scotland and the prominent word "amen" translated as "let it be (in reference to a Stuart restoration)".

The post-1745 glasses are engraved by copper wheel, a skilled process involving the use of a foot treadle and bench tool. The identity of the engravers is unknown, but a distinctive iconography runs through the later glasses, suggesting a degree of affinity between the craftsmen.

Some images crop up frequently — the rose and two buds, representing James

and his heirs; the oak leaf and thistle, the moth symbolising the "return of the soul". Motives also appear frequently, such as *fiat* (let it be) and *redeat* (let him return). Portraits of Bonnie Prince Charlie on glasses are rare, but the Drambuie collection has a fine collection of seven.

The glasses were probably made in any one of the main glass-making towns — Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, London — and vary greatly in style. Some have bubbles of air or enamel twisted into the stems, some are elongated to make high-bowled glasses for champagne, others are flattened and attached to heavy bases, intended to be slammed sharply on the table with a sharp crack after a toast.

Larger cups and glasses would have been passed round the table for communal drinking and finger-bowls would have been placed so that the drinker could pass his own glass "over the water" during a toast to the "King" — making it clear where his true sovereign was to be found.

It is not clear how grave an offence it was to possess a Jacobite glass, or any similar work of art, in the post-1745 period, but a degree of concealment was required. For that reason and because of their vulnerability it is likely that many of the glasses have not survived.

The Drambuie collection is particularly remarkable, therefore, not just in the range and diversity of Jacobite glasses in its collection, but also in their fine state of preservation.



The glassware in the Drambuie collection of works of art is the most impressive

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TIRED OF WAITING 32

Nurse's treatment for the Pru's dragging feet

WEEKEND MONEY

DISGRUNTLED 34

The A&L action group attracts a surprising name



THE TIMES PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Three years after the pensions review began only 1% of cases have been compensated, Sara McConnell reports

Onus of proof is thrown on to victims in £4bn pensions scandal

Hundreds of thousands of pension mis-selling victims who have, in many cases, already had to wait two years for their files to be reopened will now be pressed to supply extra information or face having the investigation of their cases dropped.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB) this week belatedly responded to growing concern over the slow progress of the industry's review of pensions mis-selling with a package of measures intended to speed up the process of finding and compensating victims.

Fewer than 5 per cent of the 520,000 people wrongly advised to transfer out of generous employers' pension schemes into personal pensions have even had their reviews completed, it emerged this week. Only 4,000 people have accepted offers of compensation more than two years after the review started.

Under the terms of the review, insurance companies must compensate investors by getting them reinstated in their company schemes and covering any costs, or by paying them the benefits through their personal pensions that they should have received from their company. Regulators want as many people as possible to be reinstated.

The SIB's solution to speeding up this process is to allow insurers to make offers of compensation based on less information from employers' pension schemes. The regulator slammed the existing 230 question form, drawn up by

insurance companies, as "unduly elaborate" and is to replace it with eight questions supplemented by information from scheme booklets and investors themselves.

The regulator denies suggestions from consumer groups that this will lead to investors being short-changed. Investors who may have been wrongly advised will be asked to fill in further detailed questionnaires about their employment history, salary, and pension arrangements and to supplement their answers with payslips and copies of scheme booklets. This comes on top of any information investors may already have been asked for by insurers to decide whether their case needs to be reviewed.

Under the present system, insurers expect employers' schemes to provide information on salaries and pensions on behalf of their former members. But many schemes have been reluctant to co-operate and have either not responded or insisted on being charged for giving out information.

The SIB says: "We urge investors, once alerted to their inclusion in this review, to co-operate actively and constructively in their firm's review of their own cases. Investors who do not reply at all to repeated requests for information in connection with the review have only themselves to blame if the review is not then pursued."

But firms will be expected to show they have made an effort to contact investors. Certain

groups of investors could be further targeted with advertising in the national press and other high-profile moves.

The SIB also makes it clear that investors will be expected to chase their employer to find out whether they will be allowed to be readmitted to the occupational pension scheme to build up future benefits. Investors should already have been advised by insurers to do this, the SIB says. Insurers will still be responsible for getting victims reinstated in employers' schemes and paying the cost of the benefits they missed out on while in personal pensions.

Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB, says: "Investors are being asked to get in earlier in the process and are being asked to take a conscious interest at an earlier stage." Other regulators say that investors have failed to respond to repeated requests for information in the past. The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), which regulates a number of firms guilty of mis-selling, estimates that up to 50 per cent of people fail to respond to letters.

But unions reacted angrily to the SIB's move. Joanne Segars, pensions officer at the TUC, said: "This is outrageous. We have had people at their wits' end. People have given information twice because the original insurance company has been taken over. People are being ignored. They are doing their part. Now it is up to the industry."

The TUC is also concerned that the SIB has so far refused to commit itself to new deadlines for paying compensation

to priority cases, although the SIB admits existing deadlines have "clearly been missed by a mile". The investigation of priority cases — which include those about to retire, men over 50, women over 45, and those who opted out of schemes run by an existing employer — was supposed to be finished by the end of this year. But most are still waiting, with no clear indication of when they will get paid.

Mr Large says that the SIB wanted to wait to see the effects of the new measures before setting new deadlines. He promised constant monitoring of the case clear-up rate. One priority case who has finally received a compensation offer after 18 months is Christine Garnett. Her husband, Geoffrey, had built up seven years' benefits in his pension scheme when he was advised by a salesman at the Royal Liver Friendly Society to transfer his fund into a personal pension.

Just three months later, Mr Garnett died, at the age of 39, leaving his wife with three school-age children. Mrs Garnett found herself widowed at the age of 36 without access to the benefits she would have received if Mr Garnett had left his pension with his employer.

Company pensions normally pay widows' benefits, while such benefits cost extra in personal pension schemes. Mr Garnett had not held the Royal Liver pension long enough to see any growth in the investment. Instead, he would have still been paying upfront setting-up charges that can eat heavily into the investment.

Last month Royal Liver made Mrs Garnett a compensation offer. Under the review deadline her case should have been reviewed by the end of 1995. The company admits there are other urgent cases still waiting to be dealt with.

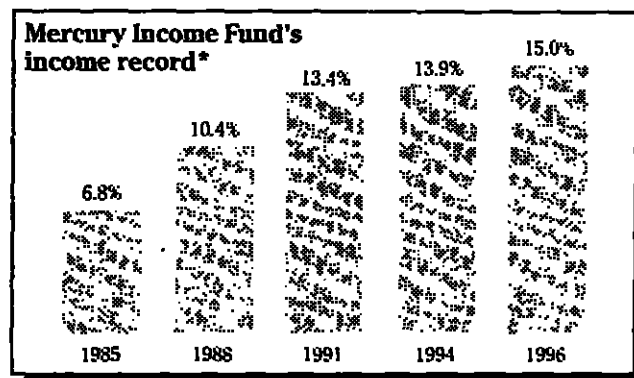
Royal Liver says Mr Garnett's scheme was slow to respond to information. It also blamed the method of calculating compensation, laid down by regulators, for its complexity. The figures require checking by several qualified actuaries. Royal Liver also argues that software designed to speed up the calculation process has been delivered only recently.

Such delays have led unions to advise their members to circumvent the review process in favour of taking insurers to court. The first of a number of test cases will be heard starting on December 2, when a member of the GMB takes legal action against GAN Life. Attempts by insurers to stay legal action by victims was thwarted at the beginning of this year by a judge in the Bristol Mercantile Court.

Mr Large said this week that the new review procedures would not affect the court hearings. He emphasised that the courts and the ombudsman were open to anyone dissatisfied with the outcome of the review.

Victims at home and abroad, page 32

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COUNTDOWN TO THE SCANDAL

19
88

The Government introduces new style personal pensions and at the same time abolishes rules compelling employees to join their company's pension scheme. Previously employees had no other choice but to join their employers' scheme. The move aimed to increase labour mobility.

89-
92

Personal pension sales boom as insurance companies, banks and independent financial advisers. More than 500,000 people are wrongly advised to come out of their employer's scheme (opt out) and go into a personal pension or transfer pensions from previous jobs.

JULY
92

Regulators belatedly ban salesmen from persuading individuals to opt out of company schemes or transfer deferred benefits from the schemes of former employers. But the damage to thousands of people has been done and the ban does little to curb the most zealous salesmen.

DEC
93

On the 9th SIB admits "it is likely some people may have been wrongly advised to move from their occupational schemes". On the 17th SIB publishes a report confirming everyone's worst fears. More than 90 per cent of salesmen pushing transfers had failed to explain risks or check the present benefits.

OCT
94

SIB announces that those who have retired, men over 50, women over 45 and those who opted out of schemes run by their existing employer would be priorities for compensation. Other priority cases include the dependants of those who had died having transferred out of their company pension schemes.

APRIL
95

The Personal Investment Authority, which is responsible for regulating the majority of offending firms, finally starts telling firms how to conduct reviews of possible mis-selling cases. But the PIA takes three months to provide firms with necessary information to carry out reviews.

JAN
96

Victims supported by unions are turning to the courts to bypass the growing delays in the industry review. The courts throw out pleas from five insurance companies trying to stay legal action by six mis-selling victims. Everyone blames each other for delays in the review.

JUNE
96

The PIA fines 29 firms a total of £16,500 for delays in reviews. A further 15 are fined in August. In November SIB announces a slimmed-down review to speed up compensation. The pressure is now on victims to provide extra information to prove they are entitled to compensation.

*Gross income to April 30 years shown from 1st investment at launch on 16th March 1984. Gross income for the year to 31st November 1996 from an investment made 5 years ago. 6.2% income payments received from an investment made 12 years ago. 14.7% income payments received from an investment made 11 years ago. 15.7% income payments received from an investment made 10 years ago. 15.0% income payments received from an investment made 9 years ago. 15.0% income payments received from an investment made 8 years ago. 15.0% income payments received from an investment made 7 years ago. 15.0% income payments received from an investment made 6 years ago. 15.0% income payments received from an investment made 5 years ago. 15.0% income payments received from an investment made 4 years ago. 15.0% income payments received from an investment made 3 years ago. 15.0% income payments received from an investment made 2 years ago. 15.0% income payments received from an investment made 1 year ago. 15.0% income payments received from an investment made 0 years ago. 15.0% income payments received 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Sara McConnell looks at victims of the pensions mis-selling scandal both at home and abroad



Grievance nursed for far too long

Tracey Glester has given up waiting for compensation through the industry's pensions review. Like many other nurses, she has followed the advice of her union, the Royal College of Nursing, and turned to the courts for redress for poor advice.

Mrs Glester, left, was persuaded to come out of her generous National Health Service pension scheme and take out a personal pension with the Prudential instead. Her attempt to find out how her claim was progressing met a deafening silence and at one

stage her solicitor had to threaten court action to get the Prudential to release information she needed to pursue her claim.

The Royal College of Nursing has been active in trying to get its members to come forward and claim compensation.

This summer it received dozens of inquiries after a story in its union magazine. The union has instructed solicitors Ringrose Wharton to prepare cases on behalf of its members in the courts.

Ringrose Wharton also acts for unions such as GMB and Unison.



Melbourne Cup day: one of the highlights of outdoor life in Australia enjoyed by many Britons living there in retirement

Beware Australia effect

Fears emerged this week that the effects of the personal pensions scandal will be felt as far afield as Australia. Those who have transferred their company pensions into personal pension plans could face large Australian tax bills.

Under draconian Australian tax rules, Britons who emigrate leaving their pension funds frozen in the United Kingdom have to pay tax of as much as 50 per cent on the growth of these funds, from the time they become Australian residents to the time they retire and start drawing a pension.

However, these rules also bite if the pension is transferred at any time before retirement, giving rise to a tax bill. This means that anyone who moved to Australia, then switched their company pension to a personal pension plan could be affected.

Any move to transfer funds

built up in the UK from one UK scheme to another will trigger a similar tax bill unless people take action within six months of moving.

Hundreds of thousands of people were wrongly advised to transfer out of occupational schemes and into personal pensions in this country. Ex-patriates living in Australia who followed advice to transfer could be liable for tax there and risk losing benefits.

Many expatriate Britons have not realised the potential impact of the tax regime on their retirement prospects. It is feared that few UK-based independent financial advisers and life insurance salesmen are aware that these regulations for overseas pension funds were passed in July 1994 and, unusually, are retrospective, according to Michael Pillemer, national manager at Tower Advisory Services, a subsidiary of Tower Life Australia.

Mr Pillemer says: "A lot of

people have emigrated but not transferred their funds. But if you leave your fund in the UK you will be liable for tax in Australia on the growth in the fund as soon as there is a 'taxable event'. Retiring and using the fund to buy an annuity is a taxable event, as is transferring funds from one UK pension scheme to another, he adds.

Britons moving to Australia have six months after becoming Australian residents to transfer their funds before the regime starts to bite.

The rules are harsher for expatriates than for Australian residents with Australian pension funds. The growth in such funds is taxed at 15 per cent. The UK's tax regime for pensions is even more generous. British residents do not have to pay any tax on the growth of their pension fund.

Emigrant Britons who do transfer their funds to Australia

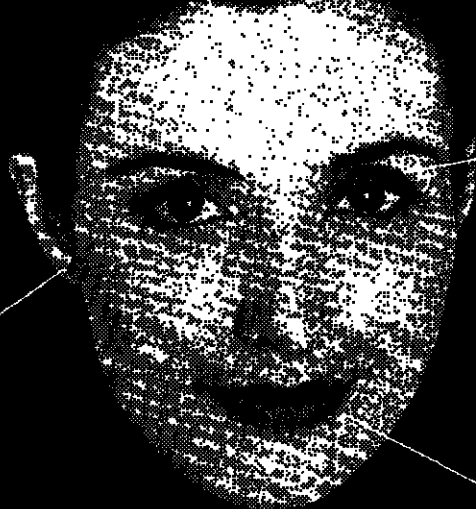
will also benefit from tax breaks on their retirement income. They will pay no tax on income from annuities bought with funds previously transferred to Australia. By contrast, income from annuities paid in the UK to UK residents is mostly taxable.

Tower Life claims to be the first Australian company to have developed a scheme, the Tower Bridge Superannuation Scheme. This allows emigrating Britons to transfer their funds to Australia more easily than they can at present. Tower Life says. Tower Life's introduction in the UK is Montfort International, which has only just received authorisation from the Personal Investment Authority (PIA).

Montfort charges a fee of £325 for processing fund transfers to Australia. But if customers approach Montfort, the firm also receives a commission from Tower of 1.75 per cent of the value of the fund.

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All figures based on buying to selling price, net income reinvested. *Average annual return over 5 years to 1.11.95. As at 1st November each year. Source: Mordax. **Except for any spread between the buying and selling price, IS & P Growth Fund: 0.5%. The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount you invested. Exchange rates also may cause the value of underlying investments to go up or down. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. On 24.5.96 the investment objective of the fund, formerly known as Scottish, was broadened from investment in financial services to investment in any economic sector. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. Save & Prosper Group Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and MRO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group. 1800/006

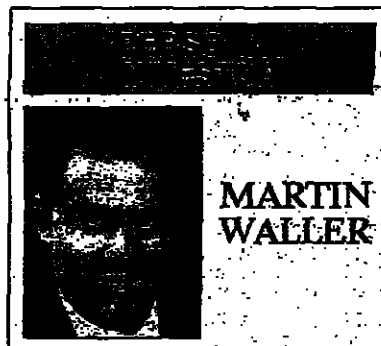
Evidence not in mitigation

Francis Baron and Mark McQuater clocked off work this week, better off by £1.5 million between them. Two obscure businessmen are the latest beneficiaries of the City's own version of the National Lottery. Mr Baron was fired as chief executive of First Choice Holidays, Mr McQuater as managing director of JD Wetherspoon, the pubs group. What both had in common, apart from no further need to worry about their grocery bills for a while, was the payment in full of their contractual entitlements for loss of office.

This is unusual. The sort of contracts signed by such top executives tend to include a fixed notice period of a year or perhaps two. If they are dismissed overnight, the salary for that period must be paid in full as severance pay. Except that in many cases it is not, because of a legal principle known as mitigation.

This requires the party, sinned against in law, whose contract has been arbitrarily cancelled, to lessen the damage to the party doing the cancelling. This is reasonable when applied to business relationships: if I contract with you to take goods at a given price, and I refuse to do so, it is not up to you to tip those goods into the Thames and bill me for the full amount. You are expected to find another buyer, at whatever price, and then sue me for the difference.

The way this works in employment law is that the sacked executive and the company doing the sacking sit down to negotiate a fair percentage of the basic



MARTIN WALLER

sum, on the assumption that the executive can find gainful alternative employment before the formal notice period is up, thereby mitigating the cost to the former employer.

Most of Mr McQuater's windfall came as profits on share options, but he did receive a year's salary, his full entitlement. The suspicion in the City is that Wetherspoon wanted to avoid the appearance of a damaging row, and settled without argument. Mr Baron appears to have been clever enough to have put in his original contract a clause including liquidated damages. This is another legal concept whereby the two parties fix in advance a payment to be made in full if the contract is breached, and no arguing please. A third recent case involved one John Clark, sacked after his company, BET, was taken over by Rentokil. Mr Clark successfully sued for his full three years' contractual entitlement.

I do not like the idea of mitigation, as it applies to employment contracts rather than clashes between big businesses. It seems to me that if your contract stipulates a fixed payoff, then that's what you should get if that contract is breached. The courts, to go on Mr Clark's case, agree with me.

Good thing, too. Lesser mortals are more likely to be on contracts that allow for a certain number of months' pay on severance, along with a sliding amount for every year served. This is a form of loyalty bonus, aimed at rewarding those who may have stayed with the company and ignored job offers from elsewhere once that loyalty is no longer reciprocated by the employer. We would be rightly upset, on our dismissal, to learn that this sum was cut because we could find other work. The law as it applies to the small fry should equally apply to the fat cats.

Huge severance payments tend to arouse an automatic knee-jerk reaction based on envy rather than sweet reason. Aggrieved shareholders in First Choice or Wetherspoon, or in any other company making such large payoffs, have no recourse against the recipients. But they do have the option of challenging, at the next annual meeting, those directors who put the contracts in place. They are the proper target of your wrath. Better still, insist on all the terms and conditions of directors' employment being made easily available. Then you have the opportunity to head off such huge payments before they fall due.



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Contemptible tendency to blame victims

Few of those involved in the personal pension scandal emerge with any credit. The patience of the victims has been saintly, but the City watchdogs, life insurers and pension scheme trustees have been found wanting.

Although all have been responsible for the delays in the payment of compensation, none has been willing to take the blame. Most distasteful has been the recent tendency to point the finger at the victims themselves.

It is claimed that thousands have yet to be compensated because they have failed to respond to requests for information. But anyone with any knowledge of the pension selling process shows this to be another excuse for inertia. When an insurer arranges a pension, the salesman goes to considerable pains to elicit all the necessary personal data. It should be no more difficult to obtain the same details to establish whether that pension was unsuitable. But whereas the salesman used charm to clinch the sale, there is little of



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

the human approach in the compensation assessment procedure.

Vast numbers of personal pensions were sold largely because the salesman was at hand to fill in the tricky bits on the form, or even the whole document. Now the applicant for compensation faces the form-filling task alone, wondering whether he can expect fair treatment from a company that has previously deceived him.

The new measures announced this week (see page 31) require individuals to provide still more information. This is just one of the many reasons why the package fails to convince.

If Sir Andrew Large, chairman

of the Securities and Investments Board, the chief watchdog, would like another five-year term in his job, he must act now to rebuke publicly those firms that have been most dilatory in handling their priority cases. If he fails to do so, there will be pressure for a replacement who will put the concerns of the public before those of the financial services industry.

What Ho Rutland!

THE entry of the Duke of Rutland into the Alliance & Leicester share distribution row (see page 34) has given this tale a diverting P.G.

Wodehouse flavour. But that does not make it the only story of interest in the building society world.

Merger activity may be at a historical low. But a few societies are quietly considering their future, including the Birmingham Midshires, which last week raised its variable mortgage rate.

Many remarked that this was a curious move for a society committed to mutuality, especially since the soon-to-be-a-bank Halifax has yet to move its variable rate. However, the Birmingham Midshires may, despite its protestations, be contemplating a publicly quoted future after a merger with another society of suitable size.

The Britannia is said to be another society with ambitions beyond mutuality. However, it must stay silent on the subject while John Heaps, its chief executive, serves out his remaining six months as deputy chairman of the Building Societies Association. Make a note of May 1997 in your diary.



The unexpected rise in inflation means that homeowners face higher borrowing costs with many societies opting to raise fixed interest rates

Lenders fix sights higher

Spending is up, inflation is up and unemployment is down, all the figures point to an economy that could be overheating. The 0.25 per cent increase in interest rates, announced last month looks unlikely to calm the situation.

This week, many more building societies withdrew their ranges of fixed-rate loans and replaced them with rates around 0.3 per cent higher.

The most significant move was by the Halifax, the UK's biggest lender, which has 2.5 million borrowers. Its five-year rates now stand at the 8.55 per cent mark, while its three-year rates stand at 7.95 per cent.

In launching the new range of fixed-rate loans, Mike Blackburn, the Halifax chief executive, said: "With the continued recovery in the housing market and the recent bank base rate rise, we are positioning our mortgage rates at a sensible level to avoid over-stimulation in the market. This should be the position of any responsible lender."

Other lenders to withdraw

or change their fixed rates this week include the Leeds & Holbeck, Woolwich, Royal Bank of Scotland, Market Harborough, Northern Rock, Bristol & West, Cheltenham & Gloucester, and Bradford & Bingley.

The Woolwich, for example, has replaced its 4.99 per cent fix with a 5.99 per cent rate. Its three-year stepped fixed loan, which offered rates of 5.99 per cent, 6.25 per cent, 6.75 per cent, averaging at 6.33 per

cent, has been replaced with a fixed rate of 6.89 per cent.

Royal Bank of Scotland has withdrawn its two-year 6.79 fixed-rate loan. Market Harborough has replaced its 4.75 per cent two-year fix after repricing it to 4.99 per cent. Northern Rock has withdrawn its two-year fixed rate, which was 4.49 per cent, and replaced it with a rate of 4.89 per cent. Its five-year fixed rate was 7.24 per cent and it is now 7.49 per cent. Bristol & West has increased its five-year rates from 7.25 per cent to 7.48 per cent.

Cheltenham & Gloucester has also repriced its five-year fixed rates: they now stand at 7.59 per cent and 8.29 per cent. Even Bradford & Bingley has slightly increased its three-year fix to 6.59 per cent.

Yorkshire Building Society has temporarily abandoned plans to launch a range of capped, discounted and fixed-rate mortgages. It said that the unexpected rise in inflation had caused turbulence in the money markets.



Blackburn: "sensible level"

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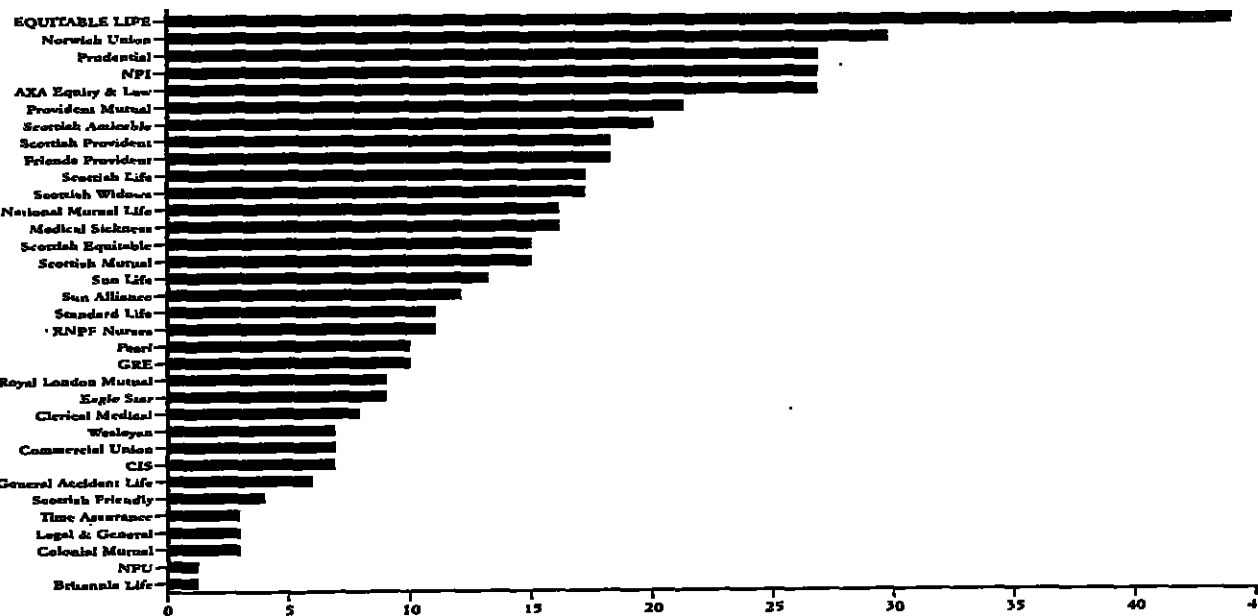
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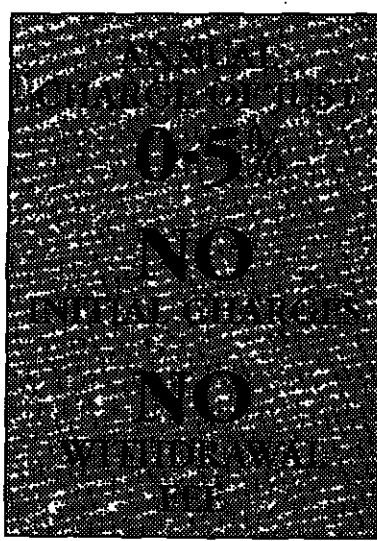
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Caroline Merrell and Anne Ashworth on bitter A&L investors

Duke in float protest

Protests against the flotation of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society continue to mount, although the society claims already to have gained sufficient votes in favour of its controversial share distribution.

An action group formed by Patrick Mountain, a former agent of the society, is receiving around 100 calls a day in support of its cause. The Duke of Rutland, an aggrieved saver with a substantial balance in the Alliance & Leicester, is among those who have joined the group's ranks in the last few days.

The Building Societies Ombudsman has, meanwhile, received more than 100 complaints over the Alliance & Leicester. Under its terms, those of a basic distribution, each qualifying member, irrespective of the size of his balance, will each receive 250 shares worth around £1,000. Both the Halifax and the Woolwich have opted for variable distribution schemes, giving larger amounts of shares to those with larger balances.

Yesterday, however, the Alliance & Leicester reported that it had received 1.2 million votes, which it considered to be sufficient for victory.

A spokesman explained: "We need a minimum of 20 per cent of our eligible investors to take part in the vote. Of these, 75 per cent must vote in favour. This means that 400,000 investors must vote, with 300,000 saying 'yes'. We have already received 1.2 million votes. Although we do not know whether these are 'yes' or 'no' votes, research shows that this total will be sufficient to yield an overall 'yes' vote."

The outcome of the Alliance & Leicester vote is likely to influence the structure of the share distribution at the Northern Rock, whose flotation is scheduled for November 1997. City sources believe that the Northern Rock, which shares a merchant bank, JP Morgan, with the Alliance & Leicester, will also opt for a basic distribution.

Adam Appleford, a Northern Rock director, commented: "We have not yet made a decision as to whether we will go for a basic or a variable distribution. We are in the process of cleaning up our database, tracking back investors' balances to December 1994. We will not be finished until January next year."

Like his fellow action group members, Mr Mountain feels that he was misled by the society into leaving £150,000 invested in expectation of a bigger windfall. To spread his message further, he has set up an Internet Web site for others to register their protest.

Members of the action group have threatened to withdraw more than £50 million from their accounts next month unless the flotation terms are changed. They are also annoyed at the cash bonus proposed for those who joined after the end of last year. For some, this could be a bigger payout than the 250 shares.

The Alliance & Leicester is claiming that it opted for the flat share distribution because most of its savers had balances of under £2,000. The society is refusing to meet the action group to discuss the share



The Duke of Rutland is among angry investors with the Alliance and Leicester

distribution scheme. Despite the complaints from the action group, many other Alliance investors are happy with the way the share distribution has been set up.

Mark Edmundson, 30, a sales director from Leicester, said: "We are all taking part in the future of the society."

Patrick Mountain can be contacted on 01458 274392.

All in a name, page 37

Widows warns carpetbaggers

Scottish Widows, announcing its link with Royal Bank of Scotland, has given carpetbaggers a stern warning that it is not about to demutualise.

The announcement this week that Widows will take over the management of RBS's life subsidiary and help to boost the pension sales of Direct Line, RBS's direct insurance arm, fuelled speculation that Widows might merge with the bank.

But Mike Ross, SW chief executive, gave warning that taking out policies in the hope of a windfall bonus would be fruitless. "While I am always happy to welcome new customers, they should not both-

er coming to us expecting a windfall. We are not about to demutualise that is not what we are about," he said.

However, this is unlikely to deter serious carpetbaggers who believe the deal is a prelude to a merger. Many opportunists took out policies with Norwich Union in the 12 months of speculation before it announced it intended to demutualise and float on the stock market. A large proportion of them will receive windfall bonuses, although the size of the payment will vary according to length of time with the society.

Widows is among a number of mutuals which had been tipped as likely to join

the stock market as a wave of mergers, consolidation and demutualisations sweep the life insurance industry. Those the market believes are likely candidates include Standard Life, Friends Provident, Scottish Amicable and NPL.

Widows will design products, administer pensions and manage investments for RBS's subsidiary life company, Royal Scottish Assurance (RSA). The mutual will own at least 20 per cent of RSA and an unspecified stake in Direct Line as part of a joint venture in life insurance. The exact size of each stake will be finalised in the next few weeks.

The news came a day after RBS ended its agreement with Scottish Equitable, now owned by Aegon, the Dutch financial services giant.

Life sales in the UK have started to pick up after two years in the doldrums following the pensions mis-selling scandal. The "co-operation" between Widows and RBS will bolster Direct Line at a time when motor insurance premium rates have been under pressure.

Many observers are not convinced by RBS's claims that it has no intention of

brokering a merger with Widows. The mutual has a good reputation and investment track record, and a closer partnership would be extremely beneficial to the bank.

Both sides say there is no change on the horizon. "We are not about to demutualise," Mr Ross said. However, he qualified his statement by adding: "Never say never." The City believes that while the UK stock market continues to grow strongly and mutuals are able to pay reasonable bonuses and stash away capital in their reserves, there will be no pressure on them to consider their future.

But a fall in the market would prompt them to look for outside sources of capital and perhaps a friendly parent who could give them financial backing during hard times. Dr George Mathewson, RBS group chief executive, said it was impossible to rule out a merger in the future, but "at present we have no intention of doing that."

He added: "Scottish Widows is a mutual company and its customers have been buying into that whole ethos. I believe there is a risk in breaking that arrangement."

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Matthew Wall on takeover targets for predators with an appetite

Plenty left on the bid menu



Music, food and — sweatshirts: half of Hard Rock Cafe's revenue comes from merchandising labelled products

Capital Radio's £51 million offer for My Kinda Town, the themed restaurant company, shows that predators prowling this fashionable sector still have a prodigious appetite. And there is plenty left on the menu.

Capital, Britain's largest commercial radio group, surprised the City with the move into an unrelated business, despite the proposed opening of its own themed restaurant in London's Leicester Square on Monday. My Kinda Town, whose brands include Beach Blanket Babylon, Henry J Bean's and Chicago Rib Shack, is being valued at 190p for each ordinary share, 100p for each deferred share and 90p for each warrant.

The deal is just the latest in a series of buyouts in a sector expanding faster than a gourmet's waistline. Whitbread, the brewer, paid a £133 million jumbo-sized helping for the Pelican Group's Café Rouge and Dome restaurant chains in July, developed by eatery whiz-kid Roger Myers. Brightons, whose brands include Pizzaland and Bella Pasta, is also rumoured to be on Whitbread's shopping list. In June the Rank Organisation

bought out the remaining Hard Rock Cafe shares it did not already own and the rights to the brand for \$410 million (£265 million). The move spoke volumes about the company's expectations for the sector. Like Capital, Rank sees great potential in the combination of music and food — half of Hard Rock Cafe's revenue comes from merchandising.

Forecasts from the Henley Centre are that restaurant spending alone will rise from £13.5 billion at the end of 1996 to £20 billion by 2001 at current prices. Total spending on eating out, including take away meals, is set to soar from £21.4 billion to £32 billion. Recent figures from the Family Expenditure Survey, compiled by the Office for National Statistics, confirm this trend. Average annual spending per household on eating out has risen from £30 in 1994-95 to £38 in 1995-96.

The major brewers have been quick to develop large, food-led pubs, such as Bass's Harvester, and Whitbread's Brewer's Fayre. Meanwhile London has seen a rash of trendy themed restaurants including Planet Hollywood and the Fashion Café. Robert Earl's Planet Hollywood

company is now developing a new restaurant in the Trocadero centre, Piccadilly, based on a Marvel Comics theme. David Harrold, chief executive of the Restaurateurs Association, says: "Business is better now than it was even in the booming Eighties. The only question is, how long can it last, given the increasing amount of competition in the industry?"

Ian Garrod, of Christie & Co, the specialist leisure valuer, believes all the independent restaurant companies are takeover targets now. He says: "The big companies, such as Bass and Allied Domecq, will not be able to resist the opportunity to expand rapidly by buying a strong, well-known brand."

Analysts agree that City Centre, whose brands include Garfunkels and Deep Pan Pizza, is a well-run company with good, if unspectacular, growth prospects. Group Chef Gerard, which specialises in unbranded restaurants, is another favourite. And Pizza Express, while expensive thanks in part to heavy investment from the US fund manager Janus Capital, is still tipped as an inevitable takeover target.

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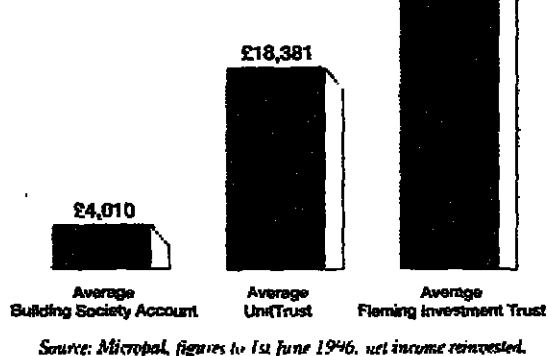
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Sarah Anticoni answers the most common questions posed by unmarried couples

Counting up the costs of living together



Unwedded bliss: showbiz couple Liz Hurley and Hugh Grant

After successive reductions in the value of the married couple's tax allowance, there now seems little to separate the position of those who chose matrimony over cohabitation. However, this is an illusion. The rights of live-in lovers to legacies and pensions and a share of the property remain markedly inferior to those who are married.

Q Is there such a thing as a common law spouse?

A No. What people tend to understand by the phrase common law spouse is a cohabitee. That is, one person living with another as part of the same household.

Q We have been living together for years. Aren't we as good as married?

A You may appear to one another and the rest of the world as a married couple, but in the eyes of the law you are not. The body of law relating to finance and inheritance apply only if you are legally married. Even if you have children, there is still a legal distinction between you and a married couple.

Q I have cooked, washed and cleaned for my cohabitee for years. Am I not entitled to a third/half of the flat we have lived in?

A By helping out at home, raising children or giving up your job, you do not automatically acquire any share in a property unless you appear on a document evidencing who holds the property. If you have added to the capital value of the flat by paying the capital part of the mortgage for a significant period or for additions that have raised its value, you may have some interest in a share of the property.

Q My girlfriend owns the flat in which we live. I have paid the mortgage since I lived there. Do I have rights over the property and own part of it?

A No, not unless you can show that there was an intention on your and your girlfriend's behalf that you would acquire an interest.

Q Is there anything we can do before we live together to deal with what will happen if one of us wishes to leave the relationship or one of us dies?

A Yes, you can make a legally binding agreement (a cohabitation agreement) to spell out your shares, rights and obligations.

including mortgage repayments, bills and the division of any capital of any property you own or acquire. Ideally, a cohabitation agreement should be signed before you live together. However, it is possible to enter into one when you are living together. If you decide to marry or have children, this is the time to review the document.

Q What happens if I do not make a will in favour of my cohabitee?

A The intestacy laws of England and Wales are not as generous in relation to cohabitees as they are to surviving spouses. Recent legislation enables a cohabitee to apply for provision in the event of the deceased cohabitee leaving no will without the need to show dependency prior to death, as long as the two have lived in the same household as husband and wife for at least two years. This does not assist single-sex couples.

Q How can I make sure my live-in partner is provided for if I die?

A There are a number of steps you can take. If the property is presently held as joint tenants, irrespective of any will provision you may make, the property will automatically transfer into the other joint tenant's name. You can also draw up a will, set up a trust fund or possibly nominate part of your pension or assign a life insurance policy.

Q My girlfriend and I have been living together for some time and we have decided to marry. Are our wills still effective?

A No. Unless the wills are specifically worded to include the possibility that you will become husband and wife, a new will should be drawn up for each of you.

Q Is it possible for me to leave my pension to my cohabitee?

A Probably yes, but the extent to which this is possible will depend on the pension scheme to which you belong. It may be possible to write in trust for your cohabitee any death-in-service benefit that will be payable in the event that you die while still working. But most pension schemes only have automatic right to the pension for surviving spouses - not cohabitees. If your cohabitee is receiving a pension and dies, it may be possible for a claim to be made to the trustees of the pension scheme as a dependant.

Q The house my girlfriend and I live in is held in joint names, but we contributed in unequal proportions to the price. Is there anything I can do now to clarify the proportions in which it is held?

A Yes. You could enter into a deed of trust evidencing who paid what at the outset, who is making what contributions and what is to happen when you split up or die.

Q My partner and I bought a property with the help of a mortgage. The property and mortgage are in joint names, but my partner has left. How can I force him to contribute his half share of the mortgage?

A In short, you cannot unless you can negotiate with him. In all probability each of you are jointly and severally liable for the entirety of the mortgage and the building society/bank is perfectly entitled to chase either of you for the full amount of the mortgage if it so wishes. Naturally, it is easier for them to chase you as they know where you are.

Q If we split up, will we automatically have to sell the house we bought?

A Not necessarily. It may be possible for one or other of you to buy the other's share. If your partner refuses to sell and you want to, you may have to get a court order. If you want to rehouse yourself, you may have to sell your share of the house to afford the cost of new accommodation. A cohabitation agreement can include a clause whereby you cannot force your partner to sell for a set time to allow the chance for one of you to buy the other out.

Q My girlfriend and I have lived together for some time and have two children. If I left her, am I obliged to pay maintenance to her and the children?

A As cohabitees, neither you nor your girlfriend has any obligation to each other to pay maintenance for one another. However, as the absent parent of your two children you could be compelled by the Child Support Agency to pay a weekly sum for their support.

Sarah Anticoni is a partner at Campbell Hooper, solicitors.

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French connection: placed end to end, the Alliance & Leicester transfer documents being sent to its 3.5 million members would reach Marseille

When it's all in a name

Anne Ashworth warns borrowers against changing names on an application for a joint mortgage

Those borrowers looking forward to a parcel of free shares from one of the societies headed for the stock market may lose their prize if they change a small detail on their mortgage application form.

Although the rules allow you to repay one mortgage and take out another on the same day and retain your membership of the society, plus your right to vote and your free share entitlement, you will lose all these if you swap the name on a joint mortgage.

A *Weekend Money* reader from London, warned other readers to learn by his experience. He said: "We have been Alliance & Leicester borrowers since 1988. In March this year, we arranged a new loan. Previously I had been the first named on the loan but we decided to put my wife's name first since the loan was based largely on her earnings. The branch questioned this change but did not warn us that we would be losing our free shares, as there was a break in our membership."

The Alliance & Leicester has now dispatched transfer documents

giving details of its conversion to the 3.5 million members who have done nothing to spoil their chances of a payout. If placed end to end, these 96-page guides would stretch from London to Marseille.

The transfer document packs sent to members should include voting forms, blue for borrowers and green for investors. Those who are eligible for a payout in both capacities should have received both a blue and a green form. Votes must be received by December 5 unless you intend to vote in person at the special general meeting (SGM) at the London Arena on December 10.

Those who have yet to receive a pack should contact the Alliance & Leicester helpline 0990 785163.

Qualifying Woolwich savers have this week been reminded to have at least £100 in their accounts at midnight on December 31, 1996, or they will lose the right to vote at the society's SGM in February 1997 and their entitlement to free shares.

In the latest move in the row over the rights of disabled savers in conversions, the Halifax has denied that its share distribution scheme discriminates against disabled customers. The society said: "Under the present scheme, separate treatment of disabled savers, on a case by case basis, is not possible. Any such individual decision could give rise to a legal challenge to the entire conversion process."

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MAM campaign to woo Kepit shareholders

Mercury Asset Management (MAM) has launched a campaign to capture tens of thousands of former Kleinwort European Privatisation Trust (Kepit) investors who opted for a cash exit after the restructuring of the Kepit trust.
 MAM has waived the dealing charges on Mept, its own European privatisation vehicle, until the end of the year in an attempt to woo many of the disaffected Kepit shareholders.
 Kepit investors who chose to exchange their shares for cash should start receiving their cheques

by the end of this month, and MAM believes many will be looking for a new equity home for their money.
 MAM is sending mailshots to 36,000 of them this week, hoping that extra demand for Mept shares will push the price up. It hopes that this will help to narrow the discount between the net asset value of the fund - the total value of all its holdings - and its share price.
 Mept's share price has lagged behind its net asset value since the trust's launch two years ago, and is currently standing at a 15 per cent discount. The shares closed yesterday at 105½p, having been offered

to the market at 100p. Mept is at pains to dissociate itself from Kepit, which was launched at the same time and whose share price fell below the initial offer price of 100p and never recovered. The shares have been suspended at 97p.

Lough Callahan, who is head of MAM's investment trusts division, points out that Mept has outperformed its benchmark, the MSCI Europe Index, which has risen by 28.1 per cent while Mept's net asset value total return (with net income reinvested) has been 37.7 per cent. This is not reflected in Mept's

share price. Mept's managers say that it has a wider investment brief than Kepit and that this will bear fruit as good privatisations come to market.

The no-fee special offer will run until December 31.
 Vicky Hastings, who was formerly a Kepit fund manager and is now head of the Mept trust, said that she expected £21 billion worth of European privatisations to be issued next year, with a further £10 billion in 1998.
 Privatisations have taken place in the financial, energy and telecoms sectors, while for 1997-98 privatisations are likely to be in utilities and telecoms.

The best-performing recent privatisations have been Railtrack, which has risen more than 34.8 per cent since its launch in May, and British Energy, up 15.2 per cent since July.
 In Western Europe the forthcoming expected issues are France Telecom, Elf Aquitaine, the French oil company, ENEL, the Italian electricity and distribution business, and Repsol, the Spanish oil and gas company.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Fund manager must restore faith in trusts, says Caroline Merrell

Investors angry at being left in dark

Investors in Morgan Grenfell's three troubled European unit trusts are clamouring for information from the company about their money.

It is nearly three months since Morgan Grenfell first hit the headlines over the actions of Peter Young, a fund manager who had built a huge portfolio of unquoted stock in three funds worth a total of £1.4 billion.

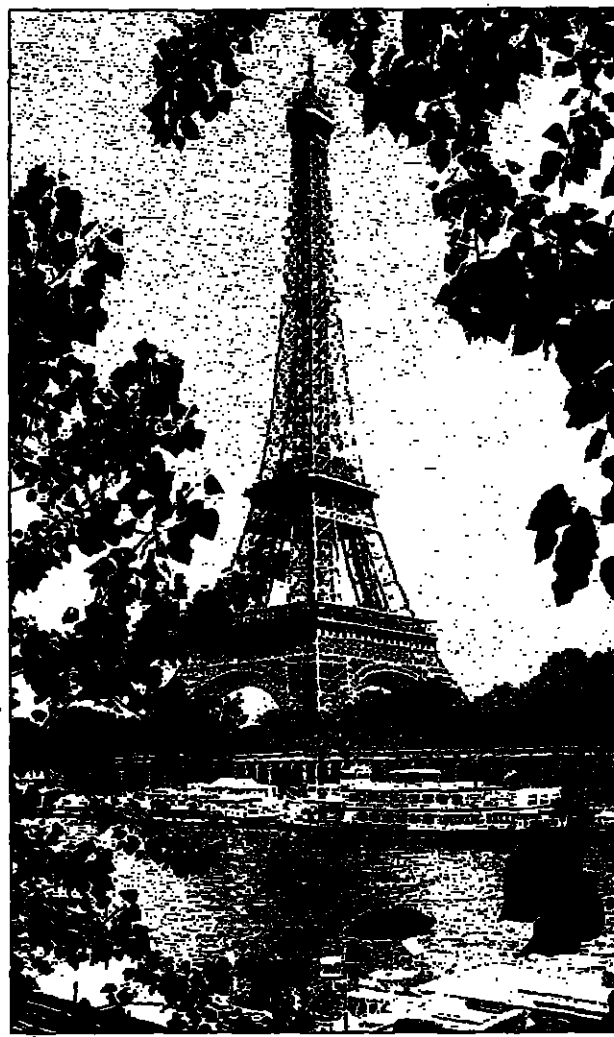
In that time, five senior employees have been dismissed from the company, the Serious Fraud Office has been called in to investigate, Morgan Grenfell's parent company, Deutsche Bank, has stepped in with a cash facility of up to £150 million to shore up the fund and the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) has launched its own investigation to try to ascertain who should receive compensation.

It is almost certain that Morgan Grenfell will be fined and disciplined by the regulators over its management of the fund.

The suspension in August of dealings in three of Morgan Grenfell's European unit trusts, which held investments on behalf of 90,000 investors, has dealt a body blow to the industry. The fact that such a respected company had run in to difficulties sent many fund management companies and investors scurrying to look at the details of their own investments to make sure that they, too, were not exposed to the same problems.

Since then, despite the huge amount of press coverage surrounding the funds, investors have been left almost entirely in the dark about what they should do with their money. Deutsche Bank has simply said that investors will be compensated for any "losses resulting from the irregularities".

Despite the comforting ring of this phrase investors will not know exactly what this will encompass until the Imro



Investors are demanding action after their foray into Europe.

investigation, being conducted with the help of Arthur Andersen, is complete. Several are understandably annoyed about the lack of communication by the fund manager.

One such investor is Stanley Fryer, from South Wirral, who said: "At the end of April I started a 1996 to 1997 personal equity plan and, impressed by the advertising, put all the money into the Morgan Grenfell European Growth Fund. In a very short time, for the reason now well known to all,

my Pep fell substantially in value. I would not contemplate selling because I would have suffered an immediate loss. People who had bought into this trust years before could and did sell and made a substantial profit, even at the reduced bid price.

"We are now told that should it be decided that compensation is payable, investors who have already sold will be compensated on the same basis as those who have retained their holdings." Mr

Fryer believes that those who joined later should benefit from extra compensation.

Another investor annoyed by the lack of communication told *The Times* he had received only two letters from Morgan Grenfell about the fund's trouble. He said: "All I have had is a six-monthly statement repeating the information in the letters. The financial advisers I have spoken to give conflicting advice. Some say I should sell my holdings, while others say I should stay with the fund."

Imro said that it anticipated the investigation in to Morgan Grenfell would be finished before the end of the first quarter next year.

Arthur Andersen is currently going back through the history of the fund to try to analyse the movement of cash and stock to see how much of the loss can be attributed to normal market movements and how much can be attributed to any irregularities.

One thorny question Imro will have to tackle is whether the marketing literature implied that the fund's investment strategy was more low-risk than it actually was. Another is whether the fall in the value of the units caused by the redemptions when the suspension was lifted was because of market forces or "irregularities".

Financial advisers feel that Morgan Grenfell has gone a long way towards dealing with the situation, and they are happy with Peter Young's replacement, Stuart Mitchell.

Graham Hooper, investment director at Chase De Vere, said: "We are telling people in the fund to wait and see. We are not putting any new money in the fund. Morgan Grenfell is a good quality name and it looks as though the problem has been purged."

The fund has continued to fall in value over recent weeks. The strength of sterling against other European currencies has added to the loss.

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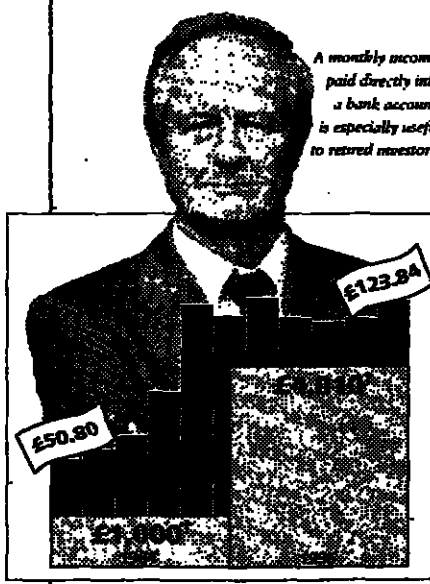
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Caroline Merrell looks at the prospects for ethical investors

Right environment for green funds



Rien ne va plus: ethical trusts rule out any investments involved with gambling, alcohol, nuclear power or defence

The election of a Labour government could give ethical and green funds something of a boost. Labour is more committed to policies that will help to clean up the environment.

It is also known to favour the adoption of various European Union directives which will produce better working conditions, greater pollution control and better preservation of the environment.

Ethical and green investment has already begun to catch the imagination of the investing public. The biggest ethical unit trust, the Friends Provident Stewardship fund, has increased in size by £150 million over the past year, to reach £700 million.

This increase can be attributed to the investment performance of the fund, but some is new money flowing into the trust. Ethical and green trusts are two distinct areas of investment.

Ethical trusts will invest in companies which fulfil certain ethical criteria, while green funds will invest in companies that positively help the environment.

Frank Blighe, market development manager of the Stewardship fund, the oldest and most established fund, said: "The outlook for ethical funds looks good. Labour's

attitude towards the minimum wage and the social chapter could all add to their appeal."

Some of the best performing trusts include the Scottish Equitable Ethical Unit Trust, the Friends Provident Stewardship fund, the NPI Global Income Fund and the Acom Ethical Fund, all of which have shown increases of about 20 per cent over the past year.

The Stewardship Fund has lists of positive and negative criteria which it uses to select the shares for its fund. Those criteria it considers to be positive include companies that supply the necessities of life, those that give a high quality service and benefit to the community, as well as companies that help the environment. Negative criteria include those companies which harm the environment, invest in oppressive regimes, exploit the Third World, or are involved with alcohol, nuclear power, gambling or defence.

For example, the fund will not invest in British Telecom, despite its record on environmental issues, because BT has a large number of defence

contracts. Mr Blighe said: "We invest in companies which comprise 40 per cent of the All-share. Fifty or 60 companies are reviewed by the investment committee on an ongoing basis."

"We also invest in 100 or so companies in Europe," he added. A recent survey by Friends Provident found that 44 per cent of investors in the Stewardship unit trust were female, and the majority, 94 per cent, put profit before ethics.

Another of the most well-known green fund managers is Jupiter. It was one of the pioneers of green investment. The selection criteria for companies in the green sector is much tougher than that in the ethical sector. The Jupiter Ecology Fund, which falls in the international equity growth sector, has risen 16 per cent over the past year and by 40 per cent over the past three years.

Charles Miller, Jupiter analyst, said: "We have a list of companies to invest in, which are selected on a series of selection criteria. We do not accept companies that earn more than 10 per cent of their income from such things as alcohol or tobacco. We will invest in companies offering recycling facilities or those that actively clean up the environment."



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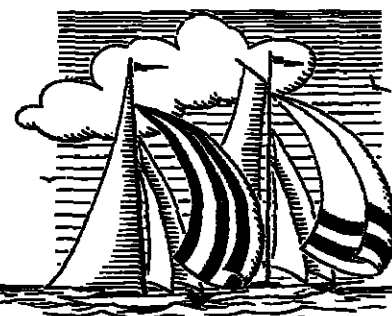
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RUGBY UNION

Bath ready for fiery reception in Cardiff

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect today of vibrant European competition does much to remove the stale sense of failure that this week has emanated from the administration of English rugby. That the dispute between the Rugby Football Union and its clubs has spilled over into other areas has been detrimental to the game's image and the organisers of the Heineken Cup must ensure that their competition does not go the same way.

European competition is the future for the game in the northern hemisphere, but, as three French clubs, three English and two Welsh prepared for the knockout phase, a spokesman for the sponsor issued a warning to administrators. "I hope the clubs don't go to a league straightaway in Europe," Johnny Armstrong said. "They can use this tournament to test future concepts, but our early experiences have demonstrated not only the potential but the pitfalls of rushing into a pan-European league."

Rob Andrew, who retired from the international stage after taking over as director of rugby at Newcastle last year, has been invited to play for the Barbarians against Australia at Twickenham on December 7.

Heineken's tolerance of rugby's shortcomings has been remarkable: at one stage, the company was a whisper away from following ITV and deserting the competition, which, in Armstrong's words, "needs the administration to match the perception the players have of the tournament."

Today, at least, English supporters will get a glimpse on television of what they have been missing. While BBC Wales shows Cardiff against Bath, the second half of the Leicester versus Harlequins tie will be shown live on Grandstand, while French viewers will have a double helping of Dax versus Toulouse today and Brive against Llanelli tomorrow. However, the late entry of the BBC only shows how much work remains to be done in renegotiating the rights for future tournaments.

The winner of the game at Leicester will meet the victor from Dax, which leaves the possibility elsewhere of an all-Welsh semi-final. The atmosphere in Cardiff has been

welling towards international proportions, buoyed by Bath's record of failure in the Welsh capital. In 70 years, they have won only once and though they have been far more consistent over the last decade than Cardiff, the Welsh club has a habit of coming good when it matters.

Only Jamie Ringer, the open-side flanker, lacks international experience, while Bath, who faltered in Pontypridd last month, have made eight changes from the XV beaten in the Courage Clubs Championship by Northampton last week. That includes the hooker, where Gareth Adams has joined Graham Dawe on the casualty list, leaving Gary French to oppose the Wales captain, Jonathan Humphreys.

If the whiff of Wales versus England is in the air, then two giants of the English game meet at Welford Road, with Andy Keast, the Harlequins coach, frank about the shortcomings of his club in recent defeats by Brive and Sale. "We created four clear-cut chances against Brive that we did not take and, at that level, if you do not finish, you lose the game."

Leicester have their own shortcomings, but, so far, they have taken everything Europe can throw at them. "I think we are a long way from being able to win the competition, but we don't have to win it just yet," Bob Dwyer, their coach, said. "I hope we will be ready when the crunch games come along." Now that day has arrived and Neil Back returns to the back row, with Stuart Potter fit to play centre against the combination of Will Carling and Gary Connolly.

Toulouse travel to Dax, whom they have already beaten in the French championship this season, albeit only 14-13, and Brive take on a Llanelli team heartened by the return to their pack of the Jones boys, Rhys and Iwan.

Spare a thought for Northampton, who challenge the French monopoly of the European Conference. Tim Rodber has recovered from a gashed leg to lead them against Narbonne, one of eight internationals in what will be a fiery encounter. Jonathan Bell returns from a disappointing Ireland midweek international, while one of his victorious Western Samoa opponents, Va'aiga Tuigamala, plays for Waspas in their postponed league meeting with London Irish.



Howley, playing here against Toulouse, finds ample time to execute the scrum half's tasks with relaxed ease

Purpose-built Howley worthy of a place among the great scrum halves

Robert Howley, after only one season of international rugby, which began against England last February, is already a world-class scrum half, so much so that his opponents are now persuaded to make him a primary target. If they are to have a chance of success, they must design an individual plan not only to inhibit his freedom but also to neutralise his force for mischief. Bath, in their preparation for the match against Cardiff today, will have been busy all week with their ideas for thwarting him.

Half an eye might be thought to be enough to set against the scrum half who interprets his role as subordinate to his partner outside him: the flanker may soon wish to meander off elsewhere. This can never be the case with Howley. He is not in the habit of giving them a choice. Those on both flanks need to pay him full and unblinked attention.

Sufficient evidence has accumulated to suggest that to ignore him for a complacent moment is to risk a riposte of punishing and triumphant accuracy. He invariably scores. He has done so six times in Cardiff's four pool games in the Heineken Cup. To begin with, there is his unmistakable strength. Last

Gerald Davies warns that Bath dare not underestimate the Cardiff and Wales No 9

season, in a brief television profile, he was seen, bare-chested, shifting weights in the training room. His frame had the sharply defined contours of an extract from an Ordnance Survey map: the dips and rises were all in the right place and hugely formidable. Here is a Welsh player fit for the modern game and its incipient professionalism.

"I have been weight training for some six or seven years," Howley said. "The physical dimensions are important, but are often lacking in Welsh players. Individual strength is vital in so competitive a sport."

With his sidestep and flourishing swerves, he is capable of beating a man in a one-to-one confrontation. This is because of the amount of seven-a-side rugby that he has played since coming under the tutelage of Keith Crockett, his mentor at Brynagor Comprehensive School and later at Swansea University.

"Sevens encourages you to take players on," Howley, 26

and 13st 7lb, said. "There is so much space and, if you succeed in doing so against faster men in the open field, then this gives confidence to do so at 15-a-side."

His speed off the mark has played a vital role in many of his tries and, if he valued scoring on his debut at Twickenham, it is the try against

France, and the pace which brought it about, that he cherishes most. It brought Wales their only victory of the five nations' championship last season.

He can read a good game as he did recently against Milan when Cardiff, in foul weather, were attempting to play a style that hardly suited the difficult conditions. When things seemed to be falling apart in midfield, he took control.

"More and more, under the new laws," he said, "with a flanker having to stay down at the scrum, it is the scrum half who has to take most of the sudden decisions."

Of course, the other essentials are there. He kicks well,

he passes accurately. He plays superbly — sometimes masterfully.

One thing more needs to be added. Because of his speed and athletic agility, he plays his role differently to anybody else playing at present. This was apparent in Cardiff's match against Waspas. His second try came from determination and strength when he dived over and through a mêlée of players close to the line. Many others could have done the same.

The first try, however, began near the halfway line. As usual, he read the moment and ran on the blind side of the loose scrum. His speed off the mark took him beyond the first line of defence. In the second part of the move, he had the full back to beat. With a shimmy, he did so. Then, to round off a spectacular run, he maintained his pace and power to cross the line.

Other scrum halves might have accomplished the first two sections of this sequence, but precious few would have completed it. There is an all-round ability that other scrum halves do not possess.

Thus Robert Howley has the potential to stand apart from the rest of his kind and to score tries to which we can exclaim: "No one else could have done that." That should concern Bath this afternoon.

Those on both flanks need to pay attention

Still mad keen to jump with nowhere to land

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

AT LONG last, this column can return to its principal preoccupation, which is to support and succour the most important sporting enterprise in Britain. Beauty, joy, ambition and a soupçon of madness: surely the sport of ski-jumping is perfection itself.

For long and weary years, this column has plotted the struggle of the British Ski Federation to establish a ski-jump in this country. Easier, far easier, to win planning permission for a nuclear power station or an eight-lane highway than to set up a beacon of daring for Britain's youth.

Hopes had been high for an entire national Nordic ski centre at Sheffield Ski Village, but these foundered upon the need for a wild gamble on a £15,000 feasibility study. British ski-jumping is many things, but rich is not one of them. There have long been hopes of establishing a ski-jumping hill at Hillend in Edinburgh, as reported in this column since 1992. The project is still — yes, still — pending, and will shortly "come up for review."

But ski-jumpers are nothing if not crazy, and they are baulking at quibbling on a number of fronts. There are, for example, hopes for "a great ski-jumping exhibition in the West Country in the fairly near future." Oh, and Durston Odeke, old friend of this column and of British ski-jumping, is in training and

for this other really-not-bad game that cricketers play so well. Any suggestions?

Struck by nerves

Faithful readers will remember the (male) Italian footballer who responded to his sending-off by kissing the (female) referee. But when Melania Biancalana, a female ref aged 25, gave a penalty in the Tuscany league match between Tempora and Lucignano, the response was less courtly. With Tempora a goal down, and chasing the game, Biancalana blew for a penalty against them, which was converted.

Silvio Giannini, 40, a Tempora director, was sitting on the bench because the manager was playing. He rushed onto the field in fury and punched poor Melania in the face. He has subsequently been banned from football for three years "for entering the field unjustifiably, for hitting the referee and inflicting notable pain and momentary visual disturbance." A fellow-director said: "Giannini is a good person. He didn't mean to cause any harm even if he went over the top. But he had stopped smoking only a few days earlier, and it may be that he was too nervous."

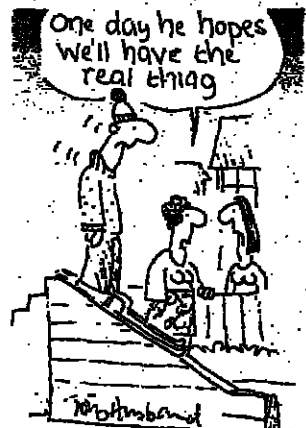
Fit for dinner

My heart regularly bleeds for poor golfers. I mean, all that physical exertion! All that non-stop action! So it was no surprise that, back in September, Tiger Woods was forced to pull out of a dinner in his honour before a competition at Pine Mountain, Georgia, saying that he was "exhausted".

Saving himself for the action? Well, no, actually, Woods, the latest sporting love-object and instant millionaire, "the Michael Jordan of golf" (will the ghetto kids all start wearing nailed golf shoes, I wonder?) was not playing at all. All the action required of him was to reach out and pick up his award, and then go to bed. Woods is a sadder, wiser and more media-aware man these days. "My actions were wrong," he said this week, before going into comparative humility to the rescheduled bash.

Mots justes

Phrase-maker of the week: David Lloyd, the England cricket coach, summing up his captain, Mike Atherton, and his famous 185 not out in Johannesburg in the Benson and Hedges Cricket Year Book: "Atherton's epic effort, spanning nearly 11 hours as the crease, plucked the bowlers of endurance, concentration and sheer bloody-mindedness for the cause. Anyone with any criticism of the lad are just anonymous outsiders who cannot possibly know him."



hoping to jump for his native Uganda at the Winter Olympics in Nagano in 1998.

Head days

There is a game, poised uneasily between cricket and baseball, that is called one-day cricket. The fact is that the game really is quite a lot like cricket when you come to think about it. It has its primary existence in the form of the one-day international, and this was a record year. The previous best was 97 matches in 1994, but the world scored its first century when India took on Australia in Bangalore last month, and by the time the year ends, 1996 will have given us 125 one-day internationals.

As a point of comparison, the first ten years after the sport was invented (when England took on Australia in Melbourne in 1971) gave us a grand total of 103 matches.

This year there have been one-dayers in Toronto (India v Pakistan) and Nairobi (Sri Lanka, Pakistan, South Africa) and Kuala Lumpur had a tournament featuring Japan, Thailand and Papua New Guinea. There is talk of a competition in Peking, England, however, plan to concentrate their energies on a rather more interesting game known by the singular name of cricket. They will play just eight one-dayers in 1997.

We really need a new name

Australians possess strength to turn on action replay

FROM KARL JOHNSTON IN DUBLIN

THAT Ulster have to face a team that approximates to the Australia international XV at Ravenhill today is sufficiently daunting in itself. That they must do so without David Humphreys and Jeremy Davidson, the London Irish pair who will be on Courage Clubs Championship duty against Waspas, makes the challenge all the more formidable.

Sporting history seems to be

repeating itself, for the last time these opponents met, a little more than four years ago, 13 of the players that lined up against Ulster went on to help demolish Ireland in the international match a week later, a scenario that seems likely to be repeated.

Today Ulster are pitted against a side that shows only three changes from the Australia team that saw off Scotland a week ago. The alterations hardly weakened the Australians. Swapping David

Campese for Pat Howard, George Gregan for Sam Payne and Michael Brial for Owen Finegan is not likely to ease the Ulster burden.

Denis McBride, the Ulster captain, who is hoping to have recovered from a month wound sustained against Western Samoa, may take heart from a valiant display in similar circumstances in 1992. Ulster lost 35-11, but played with considerably more spirit than Ireland managed seven days later.

Eight players from that match will again be in opposition today. Mark McCall, Maurice Field, Paddy Johns and Stephen McKinty are once more in the Ulster line-up, while the Australians returning to Ravenhill are Tim Horan, John Eales, David Wilson and Campese.

Tony Russ, the Ulster director of rugby, will not be under any illusions about the difficulty of the task that awaits his team, but he can look back on some encouraging displays

this season after running the eventual champions, Munster, close in the Guinness interprovincial championship.

Clearly, Australia are strong favourites, though they will underestimate Ulster tenacity and determination at their peril. Incentives will not be lacking for the home team and the fact that the Ireland XV for the international next Saturday is being announced tomorrow will not be lost on the industrious McCall, for one.

ULSTER: R Morrow (Queen's University), J Topping (Ballymore), M Field (Malora), M McCall (Dungannon), J Cunningham (Queen's University), S Wilson (Stranmillis), A Mathews (Portlough), R Mackay (Malora), S Burrows (Ballymore), S O'Brien (Malora), S O'Brien (Malora), P Johns (Stranmillis), D Horan (ACT), G Gregan (ACT), S Henry (NSW), M Foley (Queensland), A Blakes (NSW), M Brial (NSW), W Waugh (NSW), J Eales (Queensland), captain, D Wilson (Queensland), D Mann (NSW), Replacement: R Thomas (NSW), S Payne (NSW), A Healy (NSW), M Caputo (ACT).

CRICKET

Giles limits Academy recovery

DEAN HEADLEY may have won most of the plaudits, but Ashley Giles, the Warwickshire left-arm spinner, is also making a big impact in the early weeks of the England A tour of Australia (a Special Correspondent writes).

He brought his haul of wickets to 14 in three four-day matches yesterday with a return of four for 63 against the Australian Cricket Academy, who were dismissed for 258 on the opening day of the match in Mount Gambier.

Adam Hottelake, who elected to field, appeared to have made the right decision as the Academy slipped to 34 for three inside the opening 20 overs. Michael Dighton and Shawn Craig then added 125 runs in a four-wicket partnership to put their side on the opening day of the plaudits, but Ashley Giles, the Warwickshire left-arm spinner, is also making a big impact in the early weeks of the England A tour of Australia (a Special Correspondent writes).

His quicker ball, which he describes as his "most potent weapon", accounted for Craig,

who was bowled for 61, an innings that included seven boundaries, while Dighton, who had been missed at slip off Glen Chappell when 36, reached 72 before he went leg-before.

Giles, who was well supported by Peter Such, brought the innings to a close by

having Paul Sutherland caught behind in the final over of the day, the last seven wickets falling for 99 runs.

The Academy coach, Rodney Marsh, said he had been impressed with the enthusiasm of the English team. "The spinners, in particular, bowled well and there look to be some very good players here, which is a hopeful sign for England in the future," he said.

Waqar Akram, the Pakistan captain, took three wickets for 20 runs in eight overs to inspire his team's 41-run victory over New Zealand in the final of the Singer-Champions Trophy in Sharjah yesterday.

Unhappy: A Hunter and K Russell

having Paul Sutherland caught behind in the final over of the day, the last seven wickets falling for 99 runs.

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Waqar Akram, the Pakistan captain, took three wickets for 20 runs in eight overs to inspire his team's 41-run victory over New Zealand in the final of the Singer-Champions Trophy in Sharjah yesterday. Akram's performance enabled Pakistan to make a successful defence of a meagre total of 160. Mark Greatbatch, looked likely to win the game for New Zealand when he reached 50 off 80 balls but was dismissed trying to sweep a ball from Mushtaq Ahmed.

Scoreboard, page 51

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TENNIS: HENMAN AND RUDESKI MOVE RELENTLESSLY TOWARDS ANOTHER FINAL ENCOUNTER

Wood tumbles to Taylor's tenacity

By ALIX RAMSAY

LIFE, so they say, is what you make it. For those on the way up, every little step on the ladder is an achievement, something to be enjoyed, to be celebrated and, if your luck holds, repeated in the near future. For those who have already made it, the constant repetition puts success in a different light. Take Tim Henman and Claire Taylor, for example.

Yesterday, at the Guardian Direct British national championships, Taylor made her way into the final for the first time, beating Clare Wood, the defending champion, 4-6, 7-5. In the overall scheme of things, the victory did her no good. There are no world-ranking points on offer, the prize-money is paltry compared with the rich pickings on the Women's Tennis Association tour, while to become the British women's champion does not merit a huge entry in the curriculum vitae.

No matter: Taylor was delighted. This time last year, she lost to Wood, the former British No 1, in the first round, so another crack offered Taylor the chance to prove herself. It was not the greatest of matches, by any means. With 14 breaks of service, the most consistent aspect of each player's game was her ability to give up the ghost. However, Taylor stuck to it, fought back from 5-3 down in the third set and shrieked and squealed her way to victory.

Taylor has obviously been reading the instruction manuals on how to become a professional sportsman and has the patter mastered. She

is feeling good about the way she is playing, she takes each point as it comes—in fact, she was concentrating so hard on the point in hand that she had no idea that she was losing to the final set. There is a lot that escapes Taylor when she is thinking about tennis.

The fact that she grunts as she plays came as a surprise. "I don't know how loud I am, I just want to hit the ball so hard my opponent can't get it back," she said. The constant banter with herself and the crowd just "sort of happened" over the past couple of weeks. "If I've done something bad, I have to tell myself, and if I do something well, I have to congratulate myself," she offered as the only explanation.

Even the fact that she spends hours commuting from her home in Bury to the see her coach, Leighton Alfred, in Nottingham, does not bother her. "I get in my car, whack on the music and forget I'm driving," she said. Contemplation does not feature large in Taylor's life, but she more than makes up for it in enthusiasm. "I'm just so pumped up when I'm on court," she said.

Taylor plays Julie Pullin in the final today. Pullin, another recent recruit to the Alfred coaching fold, put paid to Lucie Ahl's hopes, winning 6-1, 6-4. She sped through the first set, but then faltered slightly in the second, missing six match points before she could secure the victory.

Henman, however, seldom loses enthusiasm about anything. An awfully English young man, he gives self-



Taylor winds up a forehand during her semi-final victory over Wood yesterday. Photograph: Gary Prior/Allsport

control a whole new meaning. Yesterday, he walked past Nick Gould 6-1, 6-3 to meet Chris Wilkinson in the semi-final today. Armed with a new racket, he is making his way towards his scheduled appointment with Greg Rusedski in the final tomorrow.

"It's a healthy rivalry between us," Henman said. "In the previous two matches, I'm sure he hasn't enjoyed losing and sure, I'm keen to win. I'd very much like to win the tournament, but I don't, I'm not going to lose any sleep over it. I'm fairly relaxed

about it." Life at the top can do that for you. Rusedski, meanwhile, was happy enough to have walked past Tom Spinks 6-3, 6-0, but the brave new dawn of British tennis came unlooked for. Jamie Delgado, once tipped as a hope for the future, threw

away an early chance to beat Chris Wilkinson and lost 2-6, 6-0, 9-7, while Andrew Richardson, tipped for greatness by Rusedski a couple of days ago, was beaten by Paul Robinson, 1-6, 7-0, 9-7.

Results, page 51

GOLF: STEADY PUTTING GIVES BRITON SHARE OF THE LEAD WITH OZAKI IN PHOENIX TOURNAMENT

Westwood progresses along the right lines

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MIYAZAKI, JAPAN

LEE WESTWOOD, a young man at the beginning of his career, continued to share top billing with the more established names after the second round of the Dunlop Phoenix tournament on the southern island of Kyushu here yesterday.

Out to 32, four under par, Westwood wobbled a little coming home but still managed a round of 68, three

under, to share the lead with Jumbo Ozaki on 135, one shot ahead of Tom Watson.

Westwood showed no sign of being overawed by the company he was keeping and it is to his advantage that he has something that Watson, a golfing legend, and Ozaki, Japanese celebrity, covet beyond riches and titles. The Englishman, 33, has a putting stroke to die for, a solid one over the knee-knocking three and four-footers that the other two men, who are both in their late

forties, realise they have lost for ever.

"Lee is a very good putter," Ozaki, who is seeking to win his third successive Dunlop title and bring up a century of four victories, said. "I'm impressed." And envious.

On another sunny day, a faint westerly breeze and tricky pin positions made the course more difficult and Westwood felt he had not played as well as the day before. "I tended to hole more puts for par than for birdie,"

he said, although he managed three birdies in a row from the long 7th.

Tom Lehman, the Open champion, recorded a total of 134, a tournament record, to win the 36-hole PGA Grand Slam of Golf in Hawaii. Lehman started the final round of nine holes with a one-shot lead over Nick Faldo and Steve Jones. He birdied the 10th to open a two-stroke gap that he held to the end.

Catriona Matthew and Laura Davies struggled to main-

tain their form as Jane Crafter took the lead after the second round of the Australian Ladies' Masters on the Gold Coast. Crafter shot a 65 for a total of 134 and a two-stroke lead over Matthew. Davies was a shot further back.

Great Britain were in sixth place after two rounds of their European Cup semi-final championship in the Philippines. Australia lead Canada and Finland by nine strokes.

Scores, page 51



Westwood: impressive

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Contest all-time record
Pools: colour numbers in brackets

FA CUP

First round

(1) Aston Villa v Leicester

(2) Blackburn v Chelsea

(3) Everton v Southampton

(4) Leeds v Liverpool

(5) Manchester United v Arsenal

(6) Newcastle v Tottenham

(7) Tottenham v Sunderland

(8) Wimbledon v Coventry

(9) Arsenal v Tottenham

(10) Blackburn v Chelsea

(11) Everton v Southampton

(12) Leeds v Liverpool

(13) Manchester United v Arsenal

(14) Newcastle v Tottenham

(15) Tottenham v Sunderland

(16) Wimbledon v Coventry

(17) Arsenal v Tottenham

(18) Blackburn v Chelsea

(19) Everton v Southampton

(20) Leeds v Liverpool

(21) Manchester United v Arsenal

(22) Newcastle v Tottenham

(23) Tottenham v Sunderland

(24) Wimbledon v Coventry

(25) Arsenal v Tottenham

(26) Blackburn v Chelsea

(27) Everton v Southampton

(28) Leeds v Liverpool

(29) Manchester United v Arsenal

(30) Newcastle v Tottenham

(31) Tottenham v Sunderland

(32) Wimbledon v Coventry

(33) Arsenal v Tottenham

(34) Blackburn v Chelsea

(35) Everton v Southampton

(36) Leeds v Liverpool

(37) Manchester United v Arsenal

(38) Newcastle v Tottenham

(39) Tottenham v Sunderland

(40) Wimbledon v Coventry

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE

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(28) Leeds v Liverpool

(29) Manchester United v Arsenal

(30) Newcastle v Tottenham

(31) Tottenham v Sunderland

(32) Wimbledon v Coventry

(33) Arsenal v Tottenham

(34) Blackburn v Chelsea

(35) Everton v Southampton

(36) Leeds v Liverpool

(37) Manchester United v Arsenal

(38) Newcastle v Tottenham

(39) Tottenham v Sunderland

(40) Wimbledon v Coventry

(41) Arsenal v Tottenham

(42) Blackburn v Chelsea

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Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Contest all-time record
Pools: colour numbers in brackets

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(30) Newcastle v Tottenham

(31) Tottenham v Sunderland

(32) Wimbledon v Coventry

(33) Arsenal v Tottenham

(34) Blackburn v Chelsea

(35) Everton v Southampton

(36) Leeds v Liverpool

(37) Manchester United v Arsenal

(38) Newcastle v Tottenham

(39) Tottenham v Sunderland

(40) Wimbledon v Coventry

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

Arsenal are looking prolific in attack, in the image of a revitalised Ian Wright, but are less impressive in defence. Though they eventually crushed Stoke 5-2 in a Coca-Cola Cup third-round replay in midweek, it took them a surprisingly long time to get going. Stoke not only scored twice against them but sometimes exposed their lack of pace in defence. Arsenal, still lacking a creator in midfield, would do well to buy Georgi Kinkladze, of Manchester City. **BG**

ASTON VILLA

Brian Little's relaxed, affable demeanour has been sorely tested of late, what with Savo Milosevic's on-off move to Perugia. "Basil" Bosnich's appearance before the FA and rumours of the impending sale of Mark Draper. Of deeper concern, though, are Little's efforts to capture Stan Collymore, a pompous, perplexing character who feels he is much too good for Liverpool reserves. Just the type of player to restore peace, harmony and camaraderie at Villa Park. **RK**

BLACKBURN ROVERS

A vote of confidence for the temporary manager, but he doesn't want it. Tony Parkes is happy enough to fill in while Blackburn Rovers search for a new manager, but when Robert Coar, the chairman, offered his full backing yesterday, it was politely declined. "I don't want the job. I have said that all along and I will not be changing my mind," he said. Georgios Donis is the only doubt for the visit of Chelsea, so Damien Duff, a teenager, stands by. **DM**

CHELSEA

It is a pity that Gianfranco Zola cannot make his debut for Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, but if he does play at Blackburn, as expected, he should not have too much difficulty settling in alongside his two fellow Italians, Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo. Certainly he will play up front. It remains to be seen whether Rudd Gullit dares to use a three-man attack. Mark Hughes would presumably be the odd man out but, as Gullit says, Hughes has been in convincing form recently. **BG**

COVENTRY CITY

Just when he thought it could not get any worse... Only three days after the Coca-Cola Cup humiliation against Gillingham, Gordon Strachan takes his shock troops to Wimbledon this afternoon. It is Strachan's Premiership bow as a manager, after Ron Atkinson's sudden move upstairs, and, at 39, he is also likely to play an active role on the pitch. As Big Ron uttered memorably last season: "I've never known anyone as fit as him at that age, except perhaps Racquel Welch." **RK**

DERBY COUNTY

Derby lay the foundation stone at their new ground tomorrow, which will be their home from the start of next season. Indeed, activities at Pride Park may prove more entertaining than those at the Baseball Ground, two miles away, when, without the suspended Igor Stimac, they entertain Middlesbrough tomorrow. Attractions include a tour of the new ground via CD-Rom. "Our plans are based around moving there as a Premiership club," Peter Gadsby, the vice-chairman, said. **RH**

EVERTON

Neville Southall has seen off another pretender to his crown as Everton No 1. James Spence, a promising teenager, has been told he can leave Goodison Park on a free transfer after both he and Paul Gerrard, a summer signing from Oldham Athletic, failed to displace the 38-year-old. "We believe Jamie has a bright future in the game but he's of a similar age to Gerrard," Joe Royle, the manager, said. "Paul is also waiting for his chance. The sooner James gets fixed up, the better." **DM**

LEEDS UNITED

George Graham has still to make a signing, after nine weeks as manager. It is not for want of trying. "I have been all over the place, just about every country in Europe, and most league grounds," he said. In the meantime, Ian Rush will continue to fill in on the right of midfield. He is philosophical, even though he would dearly like to resume normal front-line service against his old club today. "I would even play at left back if it meant getting a first-team game," he said. **DM**

LEICESTER CITY

Brian Little still motivates Leicester, even though he left to manage Aston Villa two years ago. The sides meet at Villa Park this afternoon and Mike Whitlow, the wing back, has mixed feelings about his last visit. Leicester recovered from going 4-1 down to draw 4-4, but Whitlow sat out the second half with a cut eye. "I think we want to impress Brian, although he is not in charge any more," Whitlow said. His view was echoed by Steve Walsh, the captain, who faces a late fitness test. **RH**

LIVERPOOL

The Collymore saga drags on, but probably not for much longer. Aston Villa have already tabled a £4.5 million bid, which will be increased, but only when they receive the transfer fee for Milosevic. Liverpool are prepared to sell Collymore at lower than cost price, for the sake of squad harmony, which was seriously disrupted by his refusal to play for the reserves. Redknapp and Ruddock, who did turn out for the second string, are in contention for the trip to Leeds today. **DM**

MANCHESTER UNITED

Ryan Giggs returns against Arsenal, and Alex Ferguson believes that will prove some thing of a turning point in United's stuttering season. "We have definitely lacked balance on the left, and that has caused us problems. Giggs's return should make a big difference," he said. Ferguson is reluctant to use injuries as an excuse for United's poor run, so he turned to diplomacy instead. "The Premiership is so ferocious, you always get injuries," he said. **DM**

MIDDLESBROUGH

Where will Emerson lay his hat this weekend? Conflicting reports on Tresside predicted that the Brazilian will either continue on walkabout in Rio de Janeiro — he has allegedly been visiting a sick aunt — or belatedly return to England for talks with Bryan Robson and Steve Gibson, the manager and chairman. Meanwhile, Nigel Pearson and Phil Stamp face late fitness tests before the trip to Derby tomorrow and Craig Hignett and Alan Moore await recalls. **LT**

NEWCASTLE UNITED

A chorus strikes up every time Alan Shearer turns up at Newcastle's training ground. "He's a walking miracle," his team-mates sing. Shearer is back in full training just three weeks after a hernia operation that would keep a mere mortal sidelined for two months. He will travel next week to Metz on UEFA Cup duty, but is not expected to play. No injury problems for the visit of West Ham today, and Faustino Asprilla gets another opportunity to show he is worth a regular place. **DM**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Frank Clark, the manager, is turning to Scandinavia as he attempts to strengthen his squad. "Their season has finished and it is possible to pick up good players on loan," he said. However, Clark has already been rebuffed by Andreas Bild, the Swedish midfielder player with Östers Vårgö. Forest clearly need new faces from somewhere but the best Clark can hope for on Monday, when they face Sheffield Wednesday, is the return of Kevin Campbell from injury. **RH**

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

David Pleat is lining up another signing, and it does not take a rocket scientist to work out that he has a forward in mind. "We've got to look up front because we have not exactly been prolific," he said yesterday. To that end, the Wednesday manager took in a World Cup qualifier between Cyprus and Israel last weekend. His target? Probably Ronan Harazi, the Israel forward, who impressed. Hirst misses the match with Forest on Monday. Humphreys stands by. **DM**

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland have confirmed that they are planning a pre-Christmas stock market flotation, expected to raise around £12 million. Right now though, Peter Reid's side, who visit Tottenham today, seem poised to struggle without the suspended Richard Ord and his injured understudy, Lee Howey. Without suitable reinforcements, Sunderland will surely continue their slide down the table and few supporters, let alone blue-chip companies, will be queuing to buy shares. **LT**

HOW THEY STAND

	Pts	Goal diff	Last five
1 Newcastle	27	+10	WWWLW
2 Arsenal	25	+14	WWWDD
3 Wimbledon	23	+9	WWWDD
4 Liverpool	23	+9	WWLWL
5 Chelsea	22	+4	DWLWW
6 Manchester Utd	19	+4	WWLLW
7 Aston Villa	18	+3	LWWLW
8 Tottenham	17	+1	LWWLW
9 Everton	16	0	DWWWD
10 Sheffield Wed	16	-4	LLDDD
11 Derby	14	-2	LLDLW
12 West Ham	14	-5	LLWWL
13 Leicester	14	-5	WLWLW
14 Southampton	12	-6	WLWLD
15 Middlesbrough	12	-4	LDLWL
16 Sunderland	12	-5	LDLWL
17 Leeds	12	-7	LWLWL
18 Coventry	9	-10	DDDDD
19 North Forest	8	-10	DLDLW
20 Blackburn	7	-8	DLDLW

WEST HAM UNITED

The pitfalls of a foreign policy are never experienced more than in post-international week, and they have caught up with Harry Redknapp. The West Ham manager has found himself three short — Rieper, Porfiriou and Lazaridis all returned with injuries and are sidelined, along with Hall and Williamson. "It is not easy to find 16 players for the weekend," Redknapp said yesterday. "You can't win if you have five of your best players missing." Still, it's only Newcastle United away. **KP**

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Hampson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanski, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough

WIMBLEDON

Joe Kinnear, the manager, has used Coca-Cola Cup ties to give first-team outings to under-employed squad members, and so far it has worked — just. Late goals from Castledine and Fear saw Wimbledon through in the third-round replay at Luton on Tuesday. Saving the energy of first-choice players for Premiership games is the other reason — but priorities might change. "Would I rest players at AC Milan to save them for Coventry on a Saturday?" Kinnear mused. "We'll have to see." **NS**

SOUTHAMPTON

Graeme Souness was pleased to come through a tricky Coca-Cola Cup replay in midweek on a cold night for his foreign players. "Lincoln couldn't stay with our passing," Souness said. Le Tissier, the only casualty, with an ankle injury, has travelled with the squad for the game at Everton today. Meanwhile Ali Ja, a Senegal international forward, is training with Southampton after a recommendation from George Weah, who played with him at Paris Saint-Germain. **NS**

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, faced a public grilling when he attended the club's annual meeting on Thursday, but nevertheless managed to emerge from the experience showing signs of remarkably good health. "You'd be amazed why players won't sign for us. It's not just about money," he said, without a flicker of a smile. "One lad wouldn't join because his girlfriend told him that, in England, the spaghetti was too soft and the coffee wasn't strong enough." **RK**

ASTON VILLA v LEICESTER CITY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 2-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

ASTON VILLA (from): M. Oakes, F. Nelson, T. Wright, C. Tiler, G. Southgate, D. Etohou, A. Townsend, I. Taylor, S. Curric, D. Yorke, T. Johnson, M. Draper, J. Joachim, G. Farnley, R. Scimeck, A. Rachel.

LEICESTER CITY (from): K. Keller, S. Grayson, M. Whitlow, J. Watts, S. Walsh, C. Hill, S. Prior, N. Lennon, S. Taylor, S. Clancy, E. Heskey, M. Zet, G. Parker, J. Lawrence, N. Lewis, S. Slater, P. Karmark, S. Campbell, S. Wilson, K. Poole.

BLACKBURN ROVERS v CHELSEA

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T. Flowers, J. Kenna, H. Berg, C. Hendry, G. Le Saer, T. Sherrwood, G. Pitroir, W. McKinlay, K. Gallacher, C. Sutton, J. Wilcox, S. Green, L. Bohannon, S. Ripley, G. Fenton, N. Marker, G. Croft, G. Doris, D. Duff.

CHELSEA (from): K. Hitchcock, F. Grodzis, R. Gullit, N. Colgan, D. Petrescu, S. Clarke, F. Leboeuf, R. Di Matteo, G. Zola, G. Vialli, M. Hughes, J. Spencer, D. Wise, S. Minto, F. Sinclair, T. Phelan, E. Newton, C. Burley, M. Duberry.

EVERTON v SOUTHAMPTON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 1-0, 1-0, 3-0, 3-0, 0-1, 2-1, 1-0, 0-0, 2-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

EVERTON (from): N. Southall, E. Barnett, C. Short, D. Watson, D. Unsworth, A. Hindcliffe, A. Kanchelskis, G. Speed, G. Stuart, D. Ferguson, N. Barry, J. Parkinson, P. Gemard, M. Branch, G. Allen.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): C. Woods, U. van Gobbel, C. Lundekvam, R. Dryden, K. Markot, D. Dodd, A. Nelson, E. Barlow, M. Le Tissier, C. Palmer, A. Cousins, I. Harte, M. Kewell, M. Jackson, M. Beattie.

LEEDS UNITED v LIVERPOOL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (from): N. Martin, G. Kelly, D. Wetherall, P. Sealey, L. Radebe, I. Rush, M. Ford, L. Bowyer, L. Sharpe, B. Deane, R. Wallace, C. Palmer, A. Cousins, I. Harte, M. Kewell, M. Jackson, M. Beattie.

LIVERPOOL (from): D. Barnes, J. McAteer, S. I. Bornebye, N. Ruddock, M. Wright, P. Babb, J. Barnes, S. McMahon, M. Thomas, J. Redknapp, P. Berger, M. Kennedy, J. Fowler, S. Collymore, A. Warner.

MANCHESTER UNITED v ARSENAL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 0-0, 1-1, 4-1, 0-1, 1-1, 0-0, 1-0, 3-0, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P. Schmeichel, G. Neville, P. Neville, D. Irwin, D. May, R. Johnson, D. Beckham, N. Butt, R. Giggs, E. Cantona, J. Cruick, G. Solly, P. Scholes, K. Poborsky, R. van der Gouw.

ARSENAL (from): D. Seaman, L. Dixon, N. Winterburn, A. Adams, S. Bouad, M. Keown, R. Parlova, P. Viera, D. Platt, P. Merson, I. Wright, D. Bergkamp, S. Morrow, J. Lukic, A. Linington, P. Shaw, M. Rose.

NEWCASTLE UNITED v WEST HAM UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 4-0, 2-1, 1-2, 2-1, 1-1, 1-1, 2-0, 2-0, 2-0, 3-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P. Smolov, W. Barton, J. Beresford, D. Barry, D. Pearson, R. Lee, P. Beardsley, L. Ferdinand, F. Asprilla, R. Elliot, G. Garcia, S. Hestop, K. Gillespie, S. Watson, P. Albert, P. Kison.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L. Mikosko, T. Brackley, S. Blic, J. Dickie, S. Lampard, D. Dowse, S. Jones, M. Hughes, M. Bowen, P. Fode, I. Dumitrescu, S. Potts, P. Shilton, J. Moncur, I. Bishop, F. Raduciu.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v SUNDERLAND

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I. Walker, E. Baardson, S. Carr, D. Austin, C. Caldwell, S. Campbell, S. Nethercott, V. Edinburg, D. Spillars, J. Newson, S. Gales, D. Walker, I. Nicol, S. Nicol, G. Whittingham, G. Hyde, M. Pembroke, R. Binkley, R. Humphreys, A. Booth, M. Bright, D. Hirst, M. Williams, O. Tounkoff.

SUNDERLAND (from): L. Perez, D. Prosser, G. Hall, M. Scott, D. Kubbick, A. Melville, M. Gray, K. Ball, P. Brackley, S. Agnew, A. Rae, D. Kelly, P. Stewart, M. Bridges, J. Mullin, M. Smith, C. Russell, S. Aiston.

WIMBLEDON v COVENTRY CITY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 1-2, 0-1, 0-0, 1-0, 1-1, 1-2, 1-2, 2-0, 0-2

HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from): N. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, A. Kimble, C. Perry, N. Ardley, S. Castledine, P. Fear, M. Gayle, A. Clarke, D. Holdsworth, M. Harford, E. Etohou, A. Reeves, V. Jones, O. Leonardson, R. Eadie, P. Hestop, B. Murphy.

COVENTRY CITY (from): S. Corbridge, B. Borrows, L. Daley, P. Williams, R. Shaw, D. Burrows, P. Taylor, K. Richardson, G. McAllister, J. Salako, E. Jess, D. Dublin, N. Whelan, P. Nkomo, G. Strachan, W. Boland, M. O'Neil, J. Flett.

LEADING SCORERS

10: I. Wright (Arsenal)
8: M. Le Tissier (Southampton)
7: F. Ravenhill (Middlesbrough), L. Ferdinand (Newcastle United), A. Shearer (Newcastle United)
6: E. Etohou (Wimbledon), G. Vialli (Chelsea)
5: D. Yorke (Aston Villa), A. Booth (Sheffield Wednesday), C. Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur), R. Eadie (Wimbledon), M. Gayle (Wimbledon)

The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at <http://www.facarl.com/>

DERBY COUNTY v MIDDLESBROUGH

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 1-0, 1-0, 1-0, 1-0, 1-0, 1-0, 1-0, 1-0, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): R. Hout, G. Rowett, C. Powell, D. Powell, D. Yates, McGrath, J. Laurant, A. Agnew, A. Ward, D. Widdie, C. Dally, S. Flynn, L. Conley, P. Simpson, R. Williams, M. Carbon, M. Taylor.

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G. Walsh, N. Cox, P. Whelan, S. Vickers, D. Whyte, G. Fleming, C. Morris, R. Mustoe, A. Moore, C. Mignat, J. Juninho, M. Beck, F. Ravenhill, J. A. Fjortoft, M. Summerbell, A. Campbell.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-3, 0-1, 0-3, 0-3, 1-2, 2-0, 1-7, 1-3

HOW THEY LINE UP

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K. Pressman, M. Clarke, P. Atkinson, D. Spillars, J. Newson, S. Gales, D. Walker, I. Nicol, S. Nicol, G. Whittingham, G. Hyde, M. Pembroke, R. Binkley, R. Humphreys, A. Booth, M. Bright, D. Hirst, M. Williams, O. Tounkoff.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M. Crossley, A. Fatts, D. Little, A. Hasland, C. Cooper, N. Jerlan, S. Chettle, S. Pearce, D. Phillips, C. Bar-Williams, S. Gammill, C. Allen, I. Woon, K. Campbell, D. Saunders, P. McGregor, J. Lee, S. Howe, B. Roy, S. Blathwick.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today
10.40pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlight)
Tomorrow
11am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday
3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday
Derby County v Middlesbrough (live)
Monday
7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night football
Sheffield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest (live)



RACING 46-47
Big Matt ready to spring into action at Cheltenham

SPORT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 1996

TENNIS 49

Champion succumbs to Taylor's tenacity at Telford



Ferguson prepares for test of strength

By DAVID MADDOCK AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

THE plan, according to Alex Ferguson, was always to concentrate first on Europe and catch up in the FA Carling Premiership later. After a disastrous run of four defeats, things have changed. Today, Arsenal visit Old Trafford and all thoughts of Europe must be dismissed.

It is a game Manchester United cannot afford to lose, even at this stage of the season. Defeat would mean, in all probability, a gap of 11 points developing between Newcastle United, the leaders, and the champions.

They have been there before, of course, but this time it is more significant, because Arsenal would also enjoy a buffer of nine points and Liverpool, should they win today and do the same in their match in hand, would be ten points ahead.

That is why a sombre Ferguson described his side's next two games as "massive". United entertain Juventus in the European Cup Champions' League four days after the visit of Arsenal and their season's ambition will be defined in the course of those days.

"I know things will turn

Gianfranco Zola, Chelsea's latest Italian recruit, is likely to make his debut in England on the substitutes' bench when they play Blackburn Rovers in the FA Carling Premiership at Ewood Park this afternoon. Zola has settled well but Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, is not keen to disrupt his side.

around for us, but I hope it is as quick as possible," Ferguson said. "A win is what we need. It will give us confidence, but more importantly, it will peg Arsenal back, because we don't want too many sides getting too far ahead while we are still occupied by Europe."

Should United lose — and that is not such an unlikely prospect against second-placed Arsenal — it will extend their sequence of league defeats to four, a run not endured since Dave Sexton's reign in the 1978-79 season.

Ferguson does not anticipate such a scenario. He accepts his team has lost confidence — a natural response to such adversity — but believes it will come back quickly. "A good win will help. The players just have to trust their ability and keep going. If they can do that, it will return."

Ferguson refuses all talk of a crisis at Old Trafford, saying his team is enduring nothing more than a bad run, something his United sides have experienced before. "Last season in December, we won only one of six, and when we won our first title, we didn't win our first five."

That season, the arrival of Eric Cantona turned things around, but this season, the problems appear to stem from the Frenchman's obvious loss of form. Again, Ferguson refuses to countenance criticism of his forward, or his manner of captaincy. "Sure, Eric has suffered a little loss of confidence like everyone else, but is that strange? I don't think so. It can happen to anyone and there is no problem with Eric. There has been comments about his captaincy, but there are different types of captains. Bobby Moore wasn't a leader that shouted, he led by example, and Eric is the same. He is excellent on the training field and the players love him."

Ferguson points to a good record, historically, against Arsenal, and to the return of Ryan Giggs, which he believes will offer much-needed balance. A certain emphasis will be lost though, through the suspension of Roy Keane, a player vital to United.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, has yet to experience defeat in six matches since his belated move from Nagoya Grampus Eight, of Japan, to Highbury. Yet he accepts that the trip to Old Trafford will pose his biggest test so far. "We have not played the top teams," he said. "I don't really know what this side is capable of achieving, but it is playing well and I see no reason to change it. It is too early to say that this one match will have a big effect on the championship, but if we get a good result, it will help us psychologically and may damage United's confidence."

Nigel Winterburn, the Arsenal defender, has recovered from a hamstring injury, but John Hartson, the Wales striker, is still suspended.

If United's problems need to be put into context, then relief comes from across the road at Manchester City. There, fans are demonstrating against Francis Lee, the chairman, and his board, while, Georgi Kinkladze, the supporters' idol, is unsettled. The team lies in eighteenth place in the Nationwide League first division.

Barcelona, led by Bobby Robson, contacted Maine Road yesterday to enquire about the £5 million-rated Kinkladze, but Lee denied brusquely that anyone is leaving, including himself. "Georgi is happy to stay with us at least until the end of the season," he said. "As far as my own position is concerned, I will not be resigning. We have done good things at this club, even though they might not be evident immediately, and I intend to stay around to enjoy the success we are certain will come."

Premiership guide, page 50
Cup of hope, page 51
Leighton's goal, page 51

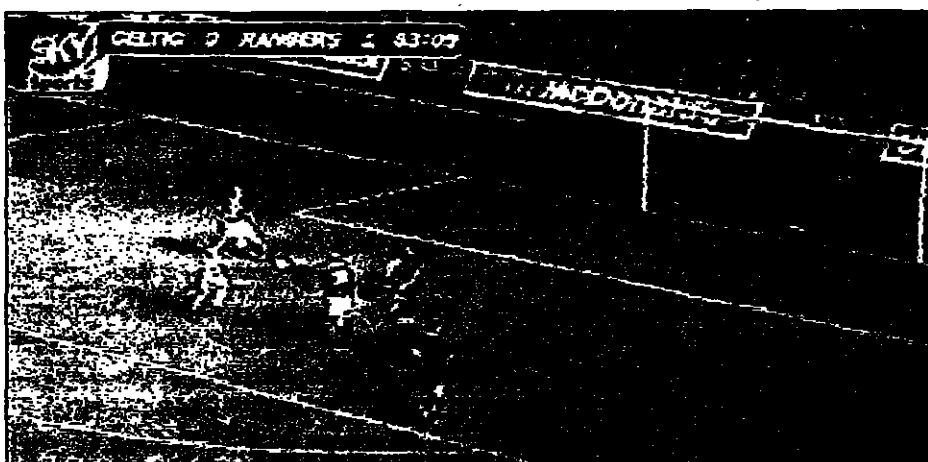
Was this football's greatest miss ever?



With nobody to beat and only eight yards out, Van Vossen, the Rangers striker, enters the Hall of Shame by calmly lifting the ball into the crowd behind the Celtic goal



Albertz streaks into the Celtic penalty area and draws out Kerr, the goalkeeper...



...unselfishly, he slips the ball to Van Vossen, who has a clear sight of the goal...



...but, with the ball under control, Van Vossen unaccountably scoops it over the bar

Statistics are all very well, but football is ultimately a game of opinions, and yesterday a nation was united: Peter van Vossen's miss in the Old Firm derby at Celtic Park on Thursday has earned him a prominent and unwanted place in the strikers' Hall of Shame.

Miss, indeed, hardly does justice to the moment. It ranks alongside the fluffed short-range putt that cost Doug Sanders the 1970 Open at St Andrews and Don Fox's sliced penalty, the last kick of the 1968 rugby league Challenge Cup final at Wembley that would have won the trophy for Wakefield Trinity.

Only the 50,041 packed into Celtic's throbbing ground and those who were watching Sky TV can join in the vilification of Van Vossen, but the incident is scheduled for a thousand replays.

Van Vossen, a Dutchman, had entered the fray as a substitute 12 minutes from time, with Rangers clinging to Brian Laudrup's early goal and having missed a penalty when Gascoigne's effort was saved by Kerr. Van Vossen's chance, though, was easier than Gascoigne's, for the Celtic goalkeeper was scarcely in the picture.

Van Vossen had started the move with an interception in his own half. An exchange with Gascoigne, a pass forward and a marginal on-side decision later, Albertz was through, bearing down on Kerr's goal with Van Vossen in support on the left and the Celtic defence an irrelevance.

Albertz unselfishly drew the goalkeeper and passed to his left. There was Van Vossen and there, eight yards away, was an empty goal. Your grandmother would have scored. Van Vossen, right-footed, did not, a swing of his right boot sending the ball into the crowd.

Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, stood and turned his back. Van Vossen had been valued at around £2 million when Smith signed

Keith Pike analyses a blunder that will be cherished by connoisseurs of ineptitude

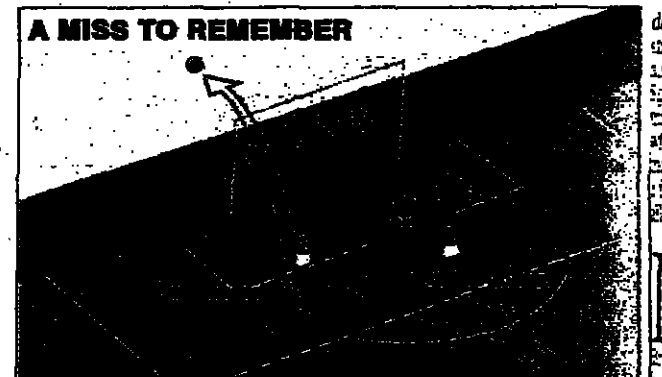
him from Turkey. At that moment, Smith would have returned him for change.

It was a mistake by Van Hooijdonk, another Dutch striker, whose subsequent penalty was saved by Goram, which was to have more bearing on the result, yet the great question was where did Van Vossen's miss stand in the all-time list?

But for Gordon Banks and that save against Pele in 1970, Jeff Astle's sad toe poke wide in the same match would have earned even greater notoriety,

while among the favourites from the domestic game are Ronnie Rosenthal for Liverpool against Aston Villa — he hit the bar having rounded Nigel Spink, the goalkeeper — and Roger Davies, of Derby County, who did the same at Chelsea but then fell over.

My favourite, though, was not even a goalscoring chance. As Gary Penrice, the Watford striker, recalled: "Bobby Gould took a corner at Norwich and broke the flag. The ball never even moved."



A MISS TO REMEMBER

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Bosnich fined £1,000 by FA

By JOHN GOODBODY

MARK BOSNICH, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, was yesterday found guilty of misconduct and fined £1,000 by the Football Association for his mimicking of Adolf Hitler at Tottenham Hotspur on October 12. His Nazi-style salute provoked uproar at White Hart Lane, where many of the supporters are Jewish. Bosnich is being investigated by police and could still be prosecuted for his action.

A three-man disciplinary commission heard yesterday, at a hearing lasting 1hr 20min, that the Australian goalkeeper, 24, had been subjected to "abusive chanting" from the home crowd during the FA Carling Premiership game. The FA said that Bosnich told the commission that his gesture was intended as a "Basil Fawlty-style joke". The commission added: "He was unaware of Tottenham's Jewish following and was devastated at the reaction to the incident." The commission, chaired by

Geoff Thompson, had decided that, while Bosnich's action was one of stupidity, it was "not his intention to cause offence or to be insulting. He apologised publicly, quickly and profusely." Bosnich was also severely censured and warned as to his future conduct.

The player said of the decision that it was a matter of "common sense prevailing". He added: "Let us hope we have put this incident behind us and I can get on with my career. I think it is time to get on with the football. There are more important things going on than this case. I'm sick of hearing my own voice."

He said that perhaps the best thing to have come out of the incident was that it had been "a great lesson for me" and that it had also raised the awareness of racism in the sport. He said he was fully supportive of the campaign entitled "Let's Kick Racism Out of Football".

Bosnich admitted: "Sometimes in life when you do things that are wrong then you should come out openly and say: 'Sorry, OK, I'm a young boy, I am 24, I made a mistake.' That is the way it goes."

The Tottenham supporters had taunted Bosnich over his clash two years earlier with Jürgen Klinsmann, the club's former striker. The Germany international had been knocked unconscious at Villa Park after a challenge by Bosnich. Jim Farry, the Scottish Football Association (SFA) chief executive, has been reported to the disciplinary committee of Fifa, football's world governing body, over comments made concerning the decision to replay Scotland's "match that never was" with Estonia. The letter informing the SFA of the matter was addressed to Bill Dickie, its president, and he has asked Fifa for clarification of the specific allegations.

Johansson sorry for racial slur

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

LENNART JOHANSSON, the president of Uefa, football's European governing body, apologised yesterday for the allegedly racist comments he made on a recent trip to South Africa (Russell Kempson writes). The comments were reported in *Aftonbladet*, a Swedish newspaper, in an interview after his visit.

Johansson, who is also vice-president of Fifa, the sport's world governing body, was quoted as saying: "When I arrived in South Africa, the whole room was full with blackies and it gets damned dark when they're sitting together. If they also get angry, it's not so damned merry."

He said yesterday: "I don't recognise my own expressions. I never had racial ideas, on the contrary. If such an opinion was made, it was not my meaning. If I hurt anyone, I can only say I am sorry."

Feethams five savour long-term benefits

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

MANY clubs in the FA Carling Premiership pay their players and officials vast sums in wages; many clubs in the Nationwide League do, too. At Darlington, though, the financial gravy train went right off the rails. The struggling third division club found itself paying five managers... at the same time.

Such absurd largesse came to light when Bernard Lowery, the Darlington chairman, presented the club's annual report for the year ending June 30. It revealed that Frank Gray, Ray Hankin, Billy McEwan, Alan Murray and Eddie Kyle — all past managers at Feethams — had still been paid long after they had left the North East club.

"Reckless contracts brought us to our knees," Lowery said. "At one stage, when we had all these managers being paid simultaneously, only a substantial injection of capital

kept us afloat." Gray left the club four years ago and was succeeded, in order, by Hankin, McEwan and Murray. Kyle was never full-time manager. He was assistant to Murray and assumed a brief caretaker's role when Paul Fletcher, who took over from Murray, departed last year. Fletcher, apparently, did not receive any belated payments.

Darlington, who are languishing in 23rd place in the third division, still showed a profit of more than £100,000 last year. Peter Thorns, chairman of the supporters' club, said: "All this shows is that the management of the club in the past has been appalling."

Darlington dismissed another manager, Jim Platt, last weekend and he has been replaced by David Hodgson, who previously shared the duties of director of coaching with Platt. It is not known if Platt is still on the payroll.

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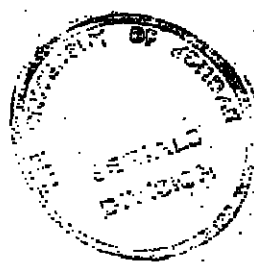
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THE TIMES

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 16 1996

weekend

Challenge for an old soldier

Britain's new Challenger 2 may be a winner — but has the tank had its day? By ALISTAIR HORNE

Hunched above me in the cramped turret of Britain's new wonder tank, Challenger 2 (CR2), the commander, Sergeant Taylor, shouts down the intercom "Fin-Tank". Into the vast breech of the 120mm gun, with a barrel as long as a telegraph pole, Staff Sergeant Gough stuffs an armour-piercing round, a 15lb dart with fins, then shouts "Loaded". In the gunner's seat to his right, I jiggle with the control button, rather like a lap-top computer mouse. It is alarmingly sensitive and the gun seems to swing all over Lutworth Cove. Optimistically, I squeeze the trigger.

The whole tank jumps, the sight is blotted out by a huge plume of flame. Almost instantly, with the shell travelling at a mile a second, a flash appears on the "enemy tank" 1,200 yards away, and Sgt Taylor announces "Target".

Next time I am not so lucky. Under pressure to finish, I get confused with the complexity of switches under my left hand and, instead of hitting the one for the laser range-finder, hit the button for the thermal night sight — the top-secret gadget which destroyed Saddam Hussein's Russian-built tanks in the Gulf War.

Everything goes green in the eye-piece, and I lose the target. Groping to put things right, I operate the machinegun button by mistake. Crucial seconds pass, in which time our tank has almost certainly been "brewed up" by the enemy. Eventually I press the right button. Sgt Taylor observes "Target", and a second Russian T-80 bites the dust.

In an amazingly short time I destroy three enemy tanks. A strong suspicion lingers that my aim may have been corrected by Sgt Taylor, utilising the commander's "Hunter-Killer" sight, which permits him to override an incompetent gunner or lock-on to a fresh target. Nevertheless... it all seemed like child's play.

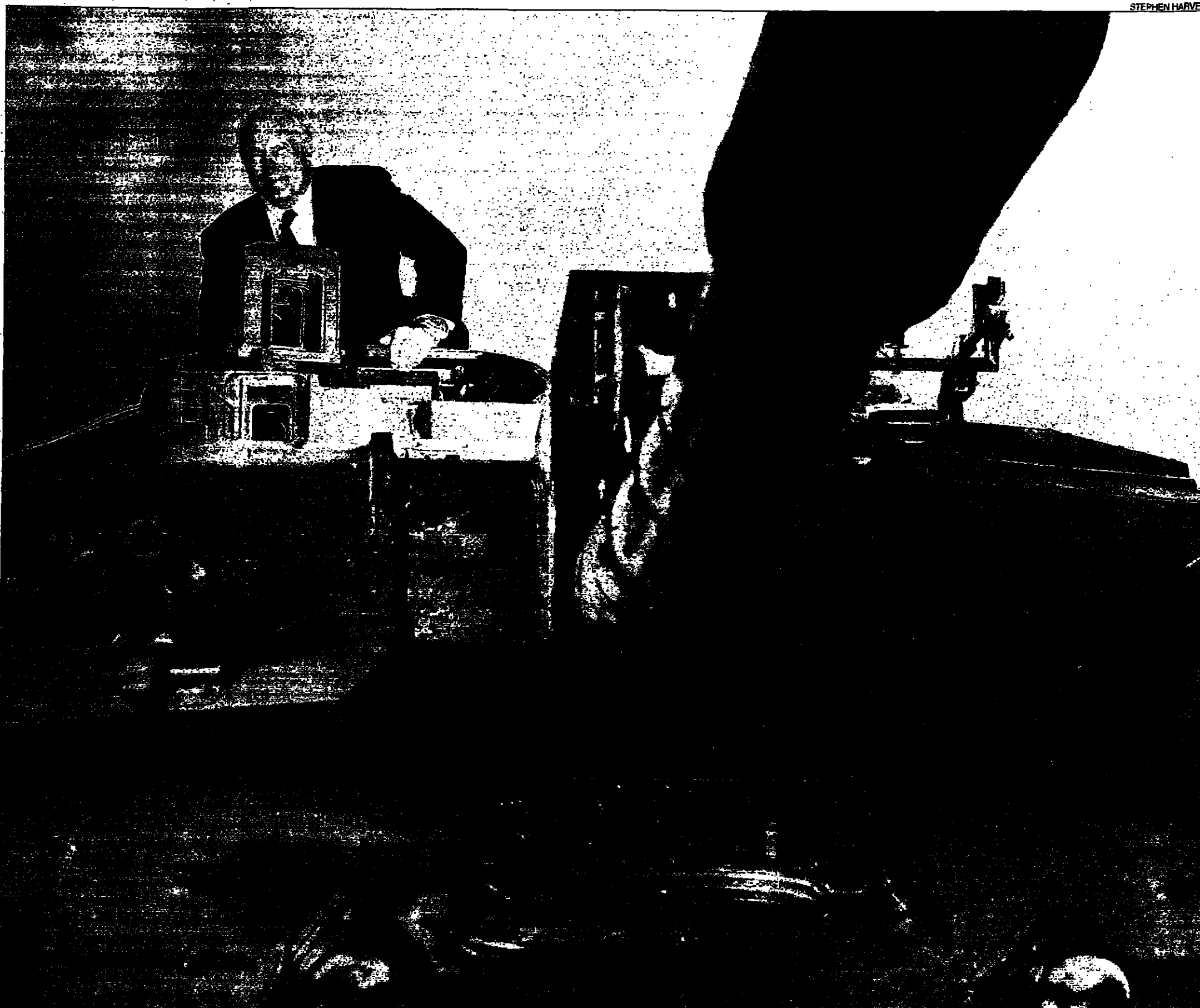
Much has changed since my day with tanks. The last time I saw the inside of a British tank was in 1945. I had just been commissioned into the Coldstream, bound for the Guards Armoured Division. But the fighting in Europe ended, and General Montgomery took our tanks away. I never fired a round in anger.

One thing was painfully clear then, however: how inferior the Allied tanks were, all through the Second World War, compared with the German Panthers and terrifying Tigers with their dreaded 88mm shells.

We trained in Cromwell tanks but the armour was paper-thin and, at 28 tons, weighed no more than the turret of today's CR2. Or there were the 32-ton American Shermans — with a 75mm pea-shooter that bounced off the Tigers at any range above 200 yards — unpleasantly nicknamed Ronsons (one flick and they light), or (by the Germans) Tommy Cookers.

Against a Panther, the Shermans were, in Monty's words, "useless, quite useless". They had some advantages: easy to maintain and so spacious you could kip down on the turret floor. But, above all, Detroit produced so many of them (88,410 tanks to 24,630 German) that the Panzers were worn down by sheer weight of numbers.

Then, in 1945, Britain produced the Centurion tank, the best of its generation. It helped Israel win



Alistair Horne, who trained in Cromwell tanks with the Coldstream Guards 50 years ago, tries out Britain's new Challenger 2 at the Royal Armoured Corps range in Dorset. Verdict: "Child's play"

two wars, but for us it was "the right tank a war too late". I wrote as much two years ago in *The Lonely Leader: Monty 1944-1945*, resulting in an invitation to spend a day at Bovington Camp, Dorset, the headquarters of the Royal Armoured Corps.

The mood there was very upbeat. The previous week at the range, reps from 20 countries had seen the CR2 demolish six targets within 26 seconds, at ranges of more than 2,000 yards — a remarkable achievement. The enthusiasm of Bovington's tank experts was plain; for the first time since the 1960s they had a world-beater.

During the Gulf War, the combination of the 120mm gun, British thermal sights and American GPS (global positioning system) enabled its predecessor, Challenger 1, to destroy Iraqi tanks before they could even be seen. One British tank is reputed to have knocked out an enemy at the extreme range of 5,400 metres — 3.35 miles. But their engines were highly unreliable, causing General Sir Peter de la Billiere, then the commander of the British forces, to grumble that every time the British 1st Armoured Division moved five kilometres

one tank was expected to break down. Now, they claim at Bovington, the new engine can be trusted to propel a CR2 the 800 miles from Fallubedel in Germany to the Pyrenees without breakdown. Instead of the sweat we had in 1945 of having to use a vast spanner periodically to adjust track tension, (otherwise, in the midst of battle, the tracks could fall off), the driver now simply operates levers on his control panel.

A new, superbly smooth hydrogas suspension and gun-stabiliser permits the tank to fire on the move with lethal accuracy. The CR2 is a "97 per cent new tank". Only 18 have been produced so far, and it will be 1998 before the army is fully equipped with them. Relations between Vickers, the manufacturer, and the "consumers" are unusually harmonious. But this time the military is determined to be hard-nosed in getting exactly what it wants.

After watching a video of a CR2 going through its paces in slow motion, charging at the camera like some monster out of *Jurassic Park* gun swinging right and left at phenomenal speed, sand boil-

ing out of its tracks, we are taken to drive the real thing. Incongruously, it has an L-plate stuck on its rear.

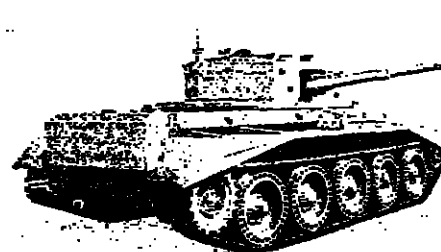
To ensure the critical low profile of the modern tank, when closed down the driver controls its 62 tons almost lying down, peering through periscopes. Instead of the great manual gear lever of the Sherman, which rattled one's funny-bone, he has a six-speed automatic gear, with override, like any modern car.

A convincing roar from the rear end, and the CR2 surges forward with a motion gentler than a sailboat in choppy weather. While not exactly a Ferrari, the acceleration is impressive: in seconds the needle is flickering on 50kph (about 31mph), well above its specified mean cross-country speed.

Suddenly, just ahead, a near-vertical wall as high as a house looms up. In a calm voice, the instructor, Corporal White, tells Trooper Skeels somewhere down below us: "Right. Slow down now, change into bottom gear... Accelerate." All we can see is sky. "Halt." We balance on the knife edge at the top. "Now dead slow

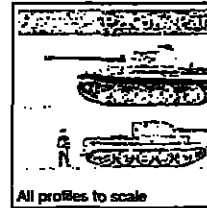
Continued on page 2

BRITISH MAIN BATTLE TANKS THEN AND NOW



Cromwell
British main battle tank in Normandy 1944

Into service	1943
Height	8ft 2in
Length	20ft 10in
Weight	28 tons
Speed	38mph
Range	165 miles
Main armament	75mm gun
Armour	76mm (max)



Into service	1943
Height	9ft 10in
Length	29ft 1in
Weight	44 tons
Speed	28mph
Range	110 miles
Main armament	75mm (long) gun
Armour	120mm (max)

All profiles to scale



Graphic by Tony Garrett and Geoffrey Sans

Into service	1994
Length	48ft 2in
Weight	48 tons
Speed	184mph
Range	300 miles
Armament	30mm cannon, up to 16 anti-tank missiles, up to 26 aerial rockets

Vickers Challenger 2
Britain's newest main battle tank

Into service	1997
Height	8ft 1in
Length	38ft
Weight	62.5 tons
Speed	37mph
Range	281 miles (road)
Main armament	120mm gun
Armour	Chobham (equivalent to 400mm standard armour)

SHOPPING.....23 GARDENING.....45 PROPERTY.....8-10 COUNTRY LIFE.....11 HOME LIFE.....14-15 TRAVEL.....17-26 TRAVEL OFFER.....25 GAMES.....27

"A toast," he said, "to all that's elegant, vibrant, stylish, with hidden depths and a full, well-rounded body besides which all others must be measured."

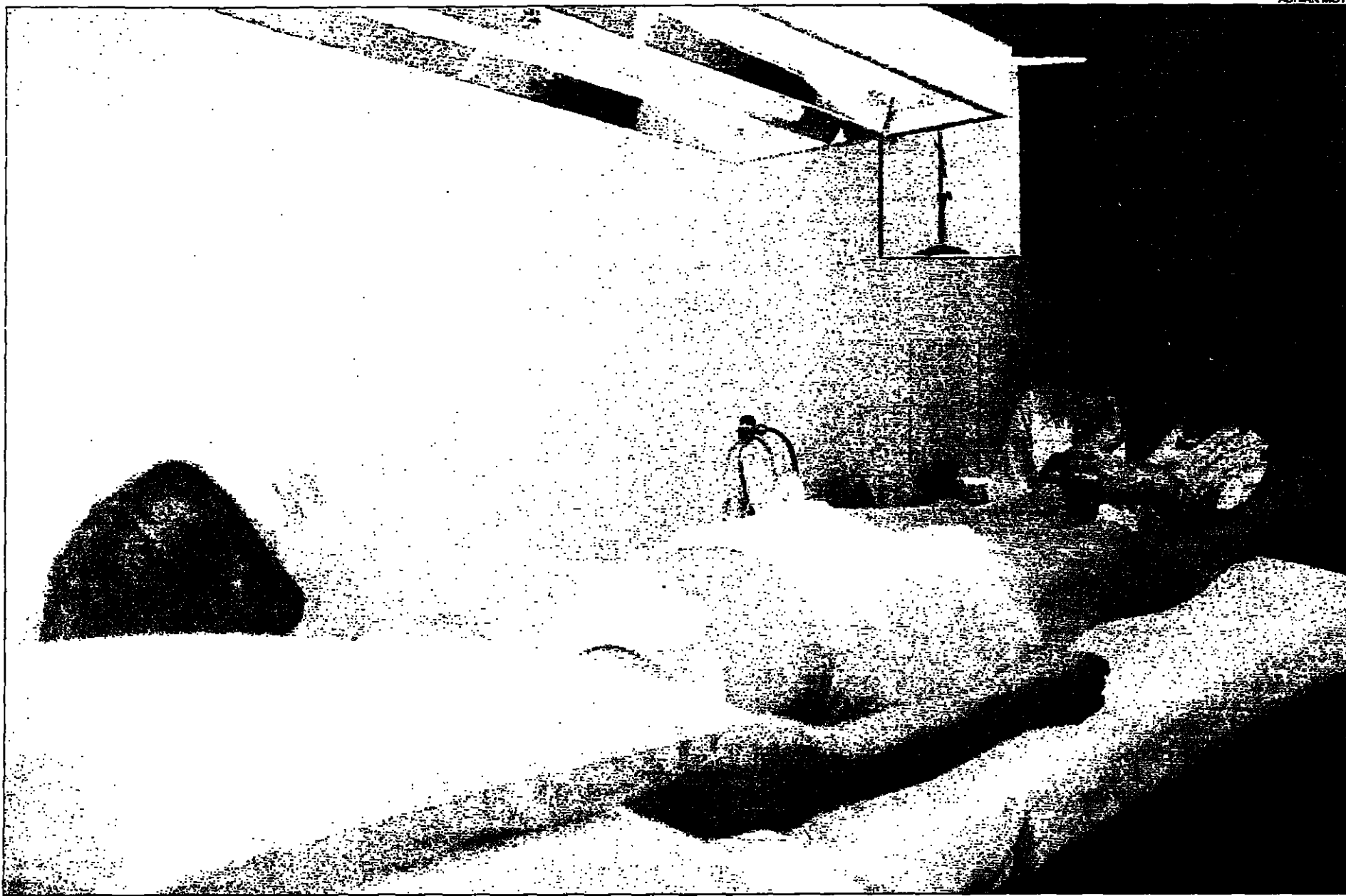


"For one glorious moment, I thought he was talking about me."

CHARDONNAY
BIN 65

Australian Chardonnay. The fruit of 150 years' winemaking.





Light therapy and reflexology are said to produce a wide-ranging series of results, and, unlike the patient above, it isn't necessary to take off almost all your clothes to benefit

Let there be light for winter

I am a foot fetishist. Ever since Michelangelo said a woman's beauty could be judged by her feet, mine have enjoyed due respect. So what could be more heavenly than to lie back last week and have my feet oiled, massaged, kneaded, pampered and played with for an hour? No husband is as patient. And all this on a June summer's day. It could have been a lazy afternoon punting on the Cherwell.

No, time travel is not my latest discovery. In fact, I was lying under fluorescent lights which simulate a mid-summer's midday. This is light therapy and reflexology combined. They don't have to be, but you feel you are getting more out of it if the therapist isn't filing her nails while you lie back.

The light therapist Renee Ganger at the Hale Clinic in Regent's Park, London, throws in colour therapy too. This involved looking at differently coloured bottles and choosing four shades I felt most in tune with at the start of the session. All mine were red and pink. This meant I was full of beans and

zest, Ms Ganger said, but could be in danger of overdoing things.

Then at the end of the session she asked which colours I would now select. I went for shades of green and blue. Triumphant, Ms Ganger explained that this showed the treatment had worked because of my choice of calmer, cooler colours.

I'm afraid this colour stuff was beyond me, but I did better with the theory of light therapy. Now this is scientifically grounded, and makes eminent sense. In 1903, the Danish doctor Niels Finzen was awarded the Nobel prize for medicine for showing that light therapy could treat skin tuberculosis. Since then it has been used to treat acne, psoriasis and seasonal affective disorder (Sad).

Listen up. At least 10 per cent of the population are thought to suffer from Sad, which causes depression, lethargy and insomnia in winter, and light therapy is apparently the only solution. Natural sunlight is in even shorter supply in cities where pollution conspires with office life and travelling by car,

ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING...

by
RACHEL KELLY



LIGHT THERAPY

● **WHAT IT IS:** Light therapy uses artificial light to modify behaviour or health ● **ADVANTAGES:** Improves bone and joint conditions, insomnia, some skin conditions and lowers blood pressure ● **DISADVANTAGES:** Be careful not to take vitamin D as well if you go regularly, as you could overdose ● **COST:** Around £40 a session.

train or Underground to deprive us.

So we need light as we need food or air. I lay fully dressed except for bare legs and no glasses (they block the light) under something that looks a bit like a sunbed with long fluorescent tubes which emit a bright white light reminiscent of strip lighting in the school gym. Therapists say it helps to expose a bit of skin. The light

includes all the colours of the rainbow and is known as "full spectrum" light.

The intensity is roughly 3,000 lux, the unit by which light is measured. The average intensity of daylight is 5,000 lux, while indoors it is 500 to 1,000 lux.

Herewith the benefits. The light stimulates the formation of vitamin D which helps strong bones and teeth by aiding the absorption of

calcium, magnesium and phosphorus. Thus those with osteoporosis, arthritis, dental caries and menopausal problems all particularly benefit. Light helps lower blood pressure by dilating blood vessels, and thus improving circulation.

Light absorbed through the eyes hits a gland called the pineal gland. This produces serotonin, dubbed the "feel-good" hormone, and melatonin, which governs sleep. Too much melatonin, and we can feel depressed and lethargic. The light therapy helps balance the serotonin and the melatonin, stabilising our moods, improving our sleep, boosting our immune systems and helping tissue repair.

"But what of skin cancer? And wrinkles?" I ventured to Ms Ganger. "The harmful ultraviolet rays are screened out, and responsible use will not damage the skin or eyes," she reassured me.

Her own feet-widening was marked by its gentleness. My previous brush with reflexology had been a painful one. The theory is that each part of the body is mirrored on the feet in precise locations known as reflexes. Ms Ganger has a map. She stimulated the nerve endings on my feet, allowing the body's own healing to work, tension to reduce and my circulation to improve which in turn helps

flush out toxins. So wide-ranging are the results that it was difficult to tell after the session whether it had "worked". Certainly, it was an utterly hedonistic hour while it lasted and I felt serene and relaxed afterwards though back to my usual zesty, lively, overwrought self that afternoon.

The only caveat: wash your feet before you go or if you like going to the dentist if you haven't flossed.

SPECIALISTS

■ The Hale Clinic, 7 Park Crescent, London W1 0JF (0171-631 0156); £60 an hour, including reflexology.

■ Champneys' London Club, basement of Le Meridien Hotel, 21 Piccadilly, W1V 0BH (0171-437 8114); £55 an hour for physiotherapy and reflexology, including Light Therapy.

■ Champneys' Health Farm, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 6HY (01442 863351); £55 an hour for physiotherapy and reflexology, including Light Therapy.

■ Spectra-Light, York House, Lower Harlestone, Northampton NN7 4EW (01604 821902); sells low-maintenance, transportable lights for £260, incl. VAT and delivery.

SERIOUS SHOPPING

by
GILES COREN



PETROL STATIONS

Sitting in the inside lane of a metropolitan dual carriageway, queuing behind 14 cars for the next available petrol pump, I often ponder the emergence of the garage shop.

A kind of road rage comes over me. I want to tailgate Mr Texaco for a couple of miles, flashing my lights and honking like a maniac, force him to pull over, and then chew a hole in his windscreen with my teeth.

No jury of my peers would ever convict. They, too, would have known what it is to be late for work, next in the queue for the pump, when the bloke in front fills up, puts

the cap back on, takes his jacket from his hook in the backseat, and disappears into the shop.

Trapped by the queue behind you, you can go nowhere. In front of his car the next two pumps have become vacant, but no one can get to them. You can see him in the shop, leafing through an amateur photography magazine. Then he selects some frosted donuts and gets himself a coffee. The days tick by. He buys some Lottery scratch-cards and scratches them at the counter. He wins £2, so he buys some more. He rummages through the display of cassettes. Eventually he pays. The credit-card slip signed, he turns to go. Then turns back and points at the cigarettes.

The man behind the counter fetches a packet of Silk Cut. He has to pay cash now. He holds his note up to the light to check it. The till operator asks his colleague if he has any twenties. The man gets his change, and slides the notes into his wallet one by one.

He walks slowly back to his car sucking on a donut. He hangs his jacket in the back. He climbs into the car. He dials a number on his mobile phone, switches on the ignition, and pulls gently away without so much as a raise of the hand.

Bored with this little story? Write to your MP. It is time something was done. The English being by nature a misanthropic, selfish race, this garage shopping simply doesn't work. On the Continent, where they have been doing it for years, people buy their petrol and then move their car before going in to pay. English people can't be bothered with that, and if you do try it the staff come running out thinking you are a fuel-lifter. And anyway, there is nowhere to put the car. That would waste retailing space.

Garage shops used to deal purely in cigarettes and girls' mags. Now they have Dunkin' Donuts, Chicken Tonight, tinned ham, fake cappuccino, microwaveable "Hot 'n' Crispy" fish and chips and "authentic doner kebabs". The fags and porn were healthier. Then they have drive-thru fast food joints, where you have to keep your face close to the petrol nozzle as you fill, allowing the vapours to cover the stomach-turning whiff of frying fat. Again, the animal by-products on sale are a distraction to the person in the car in front.

The modern garage is a monument to everything that is sad and ruinous in Britain: not only roads and cars, but fast food marketing, the Lottery, and cooking in sauces.

So why do these shops exist? Because we are dealing with a breed of retailer that charges customers for air, and they know that those lead vapours have not only long-term, but short-term deleterious effects on your health. They drive you temporarily mad, and make you think you want to go shopping. It is the ultimate statement in modern retail: chemically zombify your customer, then peddle him products that will either kill him, impoverish him, or make him both very unhappy and seriously ill.

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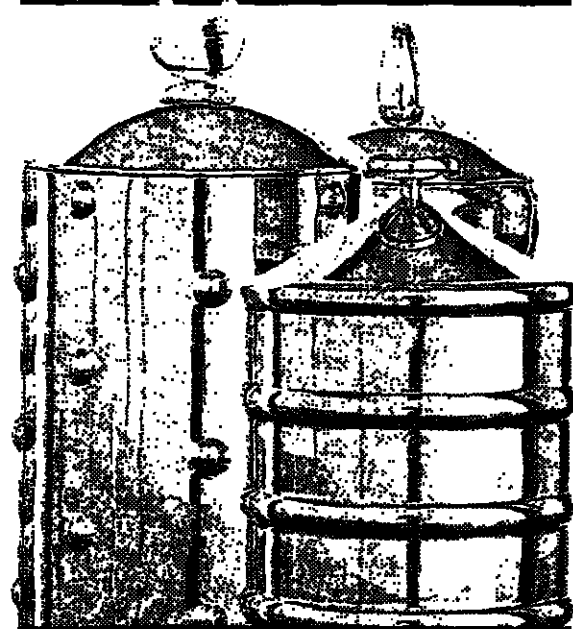
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'Four Apaches could stop a whole tank division'

Continued from page 1 forward. "All 62 tons of tank settles on the downward slope without a crunch. Back on level ground, much more of a crash comes, and helmets fly off when, over some bumps, Cpl White orders: "Now let's see if we can get it in the air." We do.

Brilliant as it may be, does the Main Battle Tank (MBT), such as the CR2 have a future? Almost ever since General Haig unleashed tanks, prematurely, on the battlefield of Flanders 80 years ago, armchair critics and wiser heads have argued periodically that the tank was obsolete.

Now, the attack helicopter and sophisticated weaponry seem to threaten its future more than ever before. Though obviously interested parties, Bovington points out that, since the Second World War, successive conflicts in the Middle East have proved that there is still no weapon as effective against the heavy tank as its opposite number.

The three keys to defeating a threatening force are still mobility, fire power and durability.

Devastatingly, the attack helicopter can now provide the first two, but only the heavy tank can provide the third. Traditionally infantrymen will not attack, or hold ground, unless supported by tanks. Only a tank can hold ground, while a lightly armoured vehicle runs con-



German Panzer in action during World War Two, and Alistair Horne as a trainee tank man at Pirbright Camp in 1945



stant risk of being knocked out by artillery, or even infantry weapons.

Also, in a situation such as Bosnia, the psychological deterrent — the "shock action" factor — of the Jurassic-like menace of the heavy tank is wonderfully persuasive in keeping the peace. And what does Israel threaten to do in its present civil crisis? Bring up the tanks.

The tank most likely to confront Challenger anywhere in the world is almost certain to be Russian, and the new generation of Russian tanks will, for sure, have the thermal sight and global

positioning system. A more sophisticated foe than Saddam may be able to jam, or even shoot out of space, the American satellites essential to providing accurate map reading.

What this would mean in featureless terrain such as the desert was made plain to me by Major-General Patrick Cordingley, who commanded the 7th Armoured Brigade in the Gulf. "We 'lost' a satellite, and for a while the whole division had to come to a grinding halt."

Can we afford CR2, and can we sell it abroad? Inevitably, the two are inter-

dependent. At £3 million a time, by the year 2000 Britain will be able to afford only eight armoured regiments, with a total of 304 tanks. Depressingly, this will put us 47th in the world league; 17 countries have 2,000-plus tanks; Israel, for example, has 4,000 (most now of her own fabrication), but then, she spends ten times as much of her GNP on defence as Britain.

Partly because of the engine unreliability of Challenger I, the competition against the American Abrams, the German Leopard and the French Leclerc

has been jeopardised. The Abrams is cheaper and has a highly trustworthy gas turbine engine but it guzzles fuel and leaves a thermal "footprint" like a searchlight. Bovington also questions the versatility of its smooth-bore gun.

However, from an export standpoint, the Challenger's engine seems disappointing. A new version, specially designed for the desert, which Vickers hope will be bought by Gulf nations, comes off the shelf with a more potent German engine than CR2s.

The jury is still out. A problem common to all

the Western contenders is whether the technology of all current MBT models will prove too complex to master. In terms of weight, gun-power, armour and engine, CR2 has now almost certainly reached the limits of heavy-tank development.

Ahead lies the possibility of a lighter vehicle, equipped with an electro-magnetic gun. But this is all 25 years away.

Meanwhile, all tanks face a new menace: "Top attack". Where their armour is most vulnerable, either from helicopter missiles fired from three miles away, or from "smart" artillery projectiles, or jumping mines. This means fresh armour head-aches for tanks already at their weight limits.

On paper, a flight of four Apache helicopters equipped with Longbow Hellfire missiles could destroy virtually a whole armoured division — in minutes.

The Apache will be coming into service in Britain shortly. But each costs more than £9 million, five times more than for Challenger 2. And they do not provide what the army requires: a robust, sustainable presence on the ground.

The tank lives on. ● Alistair Horne's latest book, *How Far From Austertitz: Napoleon 1805-1815*, was published this week by Macmillan, price £18.99.

Cashmere finally shapes up

Cashmere is hot news this season — soft, luxurious and moulded to the body. But don't be put off by thoughts of bobbling and sagging, says **GRACE BRADBERRY**. Today's designs have a hidden extra



LEFT: Cashmere and Lycra dress, £295, Scotch House (0171-581 2151); tights, £5.99, Jonathan Aston (0116-266 2388); sandals, £44.99, Ravel (0171-631 0224). RIGHT: Cashmere and Lycra cardigan, £440; dress, £350, Jaeger (0171-200 4000); tights, £2.25, M&S; shoes, £39.99, Ravel

Women covet cashmere — so much so that men could be forgiven for thinking it was on the forbidden list of the Ten Commandments, after the neighbour's wife, the manservant and the ox.

But while we want to buy it, and while we envy those who dare to do so, many of us are reluctant to take the plunge. Cashmere is something other women have. It is something you receive as a gift, not something you buy on a credit card.

Why do we feel this way? Partly, perhaps, because we have become addicted to the notion of "fashion basics" and "wardrobe essentials" — a way of looking at shopping that may assuage our guilt, but that also limits our horizons.

Gradually, however, we are shifting our position. The words "basic" and "essential" have been replaced by "must have", as in "I just must have that Gucci belt/Dolce & Gabbana rose handbag/Joseph jumper". There is no must about it of course: these are objects of desire, not necessity.

But those who make it their business to keep tabs on the spending habits of British women also report a change. We are, apparently, becoming more like continental women, spending larger sums on a single item if it looks like a good investment.

On this score, cashmere's status remains uncertain. We resist buying it not merely out of a spurious puritanism, but also out of a genuine concern that its feathery luxury will not stay the course, bobbling and sagging within months.

At last, cashmere labels have begun to address these concerns. In part, one suspects, they have been goaded into action by Marks & Spencer, whose successful introduction of relatively low-priced cashmere sweaters has given everyone a jolt.

But cashmere has also been undergoing a fashion renaissance. The Home Counties twin-sets are still available, but so are luxury versions of high-fashion knitwear. TSE Cashmere, launched in 1989, led the way. Others have followed. This season, in particular, knitwear of all kinds is hot fashion news. Dresses, skirts and sweaters are expected to look soft and luxurious. Cashmere is an ideal fibre — but the question of durability remains.



ABOVE: Cashmere tunic, £169, Cashmere by Design (0171-240 3652); devoré scarf, £15, M&S

And so, this winter, several well-known names — including Jaeger, Scotch House and Murray Allan — have added Lycra to their cashmeres for the first time.

"We developed the mix partly to give a more modern look, but also because we wanted the cashmere to be more high-performance," says Jeanette Todd, international design director for Jaeger.

In many ways, cashmere is already high-performance. And it re-performs in the sense that you can clean it and you can shave it to remove the bobbles. But it still has a tendency to go baggy, and that's what we wanted to tackle," she says. "When it comes to skirts, a Lycra-cashmere mix has the added advantage of disguising a slight tummy."

Much the same reasons have led Scotch House to introduce cashmere pieces, with 8 per cent Lycra in the mix. "Form-fitting garments are easier to wear if they have a bit of Lycra," says a spokeswoman. "If you're going to soften a jacket by slipping a cashmere jumper underneath, then it is much more comfortable if it doesn't bag under the arms."

Murray Allan has followed a similar rationale, using Lycra-cashmere mixes for its cable-knits and turtle necks in mulberry and burnt orange. But whatever the innovations in technology, the age-old rules about choosing good cashmere still apply. First, look for clarity of colour. If there are grey and

black hairs in the base of the garment then it will soon deteriorate.

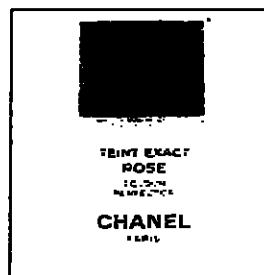
Secondly, be careful when choosing a single-ply yarn. High-quality single-plys are wonderful, but poor quality ones will result in sweaters that are thin and skimpy. Watch out also for anything that appears too loosely knitted — it will soon look cheap.

As for the care instructions, these vary from label to label. Marks & Spencer recommends hand-washing rather than using your local dry cleaners. If you do decide to take the plunge and wash the garment yourself, then remember that the important part is the drying: you must dry it flat, and you must pay heed to the over-used instruction "reshape while damp". Bearing all this in mind, you need covet your neighbour's cashmere no longer. Go out there, buy your own — but keep it well away from the tumble dryer.

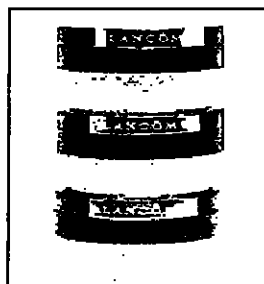


ABOVE: Pale grey cashmere cardigan, £99; matching sweater, £89, Marks & Spencer, branches nationwide (information, 0171-935 4422)

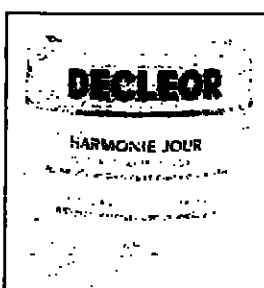
The skin's natural moisture barrier is at its least efficient during the winter, so skincare plans will need revising. **ANNA-MARIE SOLOWJ** recommends some seasonal beauty boosters



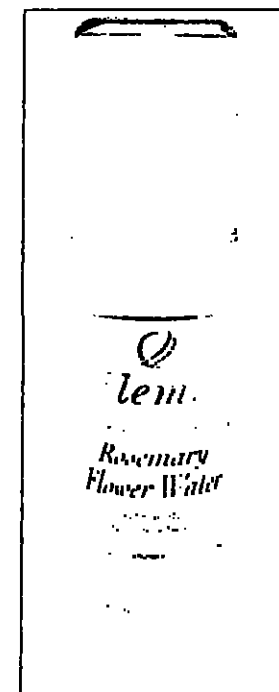
Chanel Teint Exact (£24), in blanc, rose and brun, enhances skin tone (stockists, 0171-493 3836)



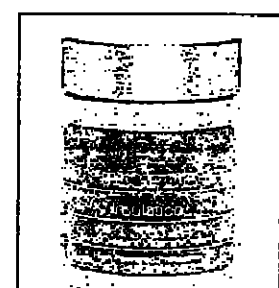
Lancôme Pommette (£15.50) is a cream/powder blusher for dry skins, available nationwide



Decleor Harmonie Jour (£31.50) is a soothing anti-redness day cream (stockists, 0171-262 0403)



Elemis Rosemary Flower Water (£6.95) is a gentle skin toner, from Harrods, SW1 (stockists, 0181-954 8033)



Prescriptives PX Insulation (£34) is an anti-oxidant vitamin moisturiser (stockists, 0171-409 6990)



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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters



I have a female holly 'Golden King' and would like to buy by mail order two more variegated hollies, another female, and male to pollinate them. Could you recommend suitable silver variegated varieties? I do not want 'Silver Queen', which is yellow edged. — D.N. Robinson, Ridlington, Yorks.

Silver variegated males include 'Elegantissima', 'Silver Milkbooby', 'Silver Argentia' and, if correctly named, the creamy holly 'Silver Queen'. Silver males include 'Handsome New Silver', 'Silver Sentinel' and the weeping variety 'Marginalia Pendula'. In hollies there is a great deal of variation in the pattern of the variegation, so when you look at the different varieties in a public garden first, before buying. In the garden centre there are a great many misnamed plants. The holly of Cornwall does a good selection by mail order, from Penrhyn Nursery, Cott Road, Lostwithiel, Cornwall PL22 0SW. The specialist highland hollies, at High-land Farm, Hatch Lane, Liss, Hants GU33 7NH does not mail order but sells more than 50 varieties. I would look in a garden centre and use something you like the look of.

In autumn, hundreds of sycamore leaves low across my garden, covered in black spots. My roses also suffer from blackspot. Is this the same disease, and should I be tearing them up and burning them? — A.G. Williams, Armthorpe.

Rose blackspot and tar spot on sycamores are separate diseases. The former can seriously damage roses by defoliation, but the latter simply makes sycamore leaves look disturbingly spotty. Just compost the sycamore leaves as usual.

I live in a ten-year-old brick-built London town house. A neighbour's property is almost totally covered by a fast-growing

Russian vine, which is encroaching onto my property. Although it is attractive, I am concerned that it will damage the brickwork. Can you advise whether it can be left to grow freely or should it be restrained? — R. Morgan, London E14.

Fallopia baldschuanica, the mile-a-minute plant, does not produce aerial roots and will not damage brickwork. However, it will grow under eaves into roof spaces, and behind downpipes and around and



Russian vine: prolific

around gutters. Then, when snow lands on it, or even if it is very wet and heavy, great strain can be put on the things supporting it. It does need restraining, and vigorously, at the end of each season. I would suggest you have a chat about a joint attack on the vine, as it sounds as if it has got the better of your neighbour. Cut it back when it is leafless and dry and the stems can be burnt. Pruning in full leaf seems cruel, but the plant will stand it. In small gardens it is better cut right down every couple of years.

Last year I bought four apple trees through an offer, but since then I have learnt of the value of dwarfing rootstocks for fruit trees. I would like to train my trees as espaliers 15ft-20ft apart. Can I use my

existing trees or should I buy anew — and if so, on which stock? — A. Birch, Birmingham.

These will be good-sized espaliers, and you should look for the semi-dwarfing rootstock MM.106, M.9, M.26 and M.27 are more dwarfing than you need, and require a very good soil and no competition from grass to succeed. They are better for cordons, bushes and dwarf pyramids. M.2 and MM.111 will produce large trees, especially on rich soil. If there is no indication what your trees are from the literature, it is probably safe to assume that they are suitable for a small garden. I would have a go at making them work as espaliers.

We want to plant a fruiting olive tree in our garden. Any suggestions? — A.J. Bray, Farnborough, Hants.

In Britain, olives are a conservatory plant. In very mild conditions they will survive outdoors, and there is an old tree in the Chelsea Physic Garden in London, protected by city warmth, which even produces fruit. You could grow an olive in a tub, and bring it under glass for the winter. The little yellow flowers in spring are sweet smelling, and the grey evergreen foliage is always good. Reads of Hales Hall, London, Norfolk NR14 6QW sells clones of dessert olives, including 'Pyramidalis', which is fairly hardy.

If a garden plant it must be, why not try *Phillyrea latifolia*, a dark green, small evergreen tree in the olive family. It has neat, glossy, evergreen foliage and craggy bark in old age, which is nearly as good as an olive.

Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.



A lawn separated by paving will be simpler to maintain because the mower oversails the edge. Strimmers are also a godsend for gardeners

At the cutting edge

There are crafty ways of edging lawns which can mean far less work, says STEPHEN ANDERTON

Some gardeners hate edging lawns. They are not to say we don't admire a well-cut edge, crisp and straight for all its length. But if it is possible to do without lawn edges, well, who wouldn't? However, there are ways of edging lawns which are far less work.

The most labour-intensive edge is where the turf meets the soil of a border — the traditional 3in drop, edged either with hand shears or an electric edger. If it's not edged every time the lawn is

cut, it lets down the Armani sward. Much easier to maintain is a lawn separated from a border by a line of paving. When paving and turf are at the same level, the mower can oversail the edge as it cuts and reduce hand-edging. It suits gardeners who like plants to spill over the edge and break up straight lines. Plants can spill over paving to their hearts' delight without browning the grass or getting in the way of a mower blade.

Thankfully, there are those wonderful nylon-cord strimmers that can be used to chop off those stalks which venture sideways over the paving. Previously, the only option was to try to get the lower blade of the edging shears underneath the stalks — a frustrating and tricky business — or to cut back the edge periodically with a half-moon edging iron.

The width of paving varies according to whether plants are to spill towards or inundate the lawn, and the scale and length of the border. Large borders might require a couple of feet of paving (almost a path), smaller ones a foot, and the smallest 9in. In this case, bricks laid, together like dominoes, can be used, set on a bed of concrete. Long paving slabs can be set just on a bed of sand, and there are fewer joints for creeping grasses to penetrate.

Many times out of ten the most efficient way of arranging the transition from turf to border is through a path or hard landscaping. If the logic of your design can be made

to require this transition, maintenance will be easier.

Remember that grass is just as likely to intermingle with a composite medium, such as gravel, as it is with turf and border soil, so composite paths are better with brick or concrete kerbs. The easiest to maintain will be a flat edging which the mower can oversail.

Vertical edgings, although more work, have their virtues. They stand out more, naturally, and can be as ornamental as you choose. There are the ceramic "rope" tiles of Victorian times, now in production again. There is the method of setting bricks on end but sloping to give a stepped top; very fancy but most effective. There are smooth concrete kerbs, perhaps 2ft long and 9in deep, which, like bricks, need to be set in concrete. If firmly fixed you can run a light, rubber-wheeled mower against

them in order to get close. A strimmer will then cut off the whiskers.

With vertical edgings or turf growing right up to walls, strimmers are extremely useful. The last little strip left by the mower can be strimmed off with ease. Better still, do it first so that the mower then picks up the strimmings as it passes.

For best results, vertical edgings are set on a bed of concrete to keep them in place horizontally, with concrete banked up under the turf on either side to keep them vertical. These areas of side concrete are called haunchings. If you are having a path constructed this way, make sure you agree with the builder the width of the haunchings. Too narrow a haunching will not support the edgings. But usually the greater problem is haunchings which are too wide, giving you 9in of dry, useless border with concrete underneath. About 4-5in will be

sufficient. Where turf meets gravel, other options must be considered. A wooden edging can be used, made of heavy-duty pressure-treated fencing rails nailed to vertical pegs. The wood is set into the ground just deep enough to hold back the gravel and give an inch or two of vertical, and low enough for the turf to grow over the top edge of the wood and hide it. This is important, because the wood is pretty ugly until it disappears. Timber normally comes in 12ft lengths, and it is possible to get some modest curve on to a path edge by bending it. Tighter curves have to be made by cutting in shorter pieces of wood set around the angle of the curve. It never looks entirely happy, and relies on the turf lapping over the wood and being cut to a smoother curve. Properly treated timber should last ten years.

For a longer-lasting job, and a more discreet if expensive one, metal strip edgings may be used in a similar way, bolted to vertical posts of angle iron. But such cruel precision can look out of place in a garden. It suits roads and drives better than garden paths.

If you are stuck with lawns giving straight on to borders (and it looks delightful after all) edging is made easier by ensuring the soil level is lower than the turf, with a clean drop. Then you can get the blade of the shears under the grass easily.

Finally, even if you are happy to leave lawn weeds in the turf, it's worth controlling creeping weeds such as clover and yarrow at the edges, as these evade the edging shears and slither into the border.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Plant or move roses. Those arriving by mail may have dry roots and should be soaked in water for an hour before planting. The same applies to bare-rooted trees and shrubs.
- Using straw or bracken, protect celeriac and other root crops left in the ground from frost.
- The hardest 'Aquadulce' broad beans and sugar peas may be sown now in mild spells for an early crop next year.
- Move hardwood cuttings of currants and gooseberries taken last autumn into their final positions, after thorough soil enrichment (see opposite page).
- Plant cloves of garlic outdoors on light, well-drained soil. Use only plump, firm bulbs and set 7in apart.

Chancellor who planted ideas

Studley Royal, Near Ripon, North Yorkshire (01765 608888)

Signs to Fountains Abbey off B6265 between Ripon (2m) and Pateley Bridge. Daily all year except Dec 24 and 25, Fri from Nov to Jan: 10am-5pm, or dusk if earlier, Jan to March and Oct to Dec: 10am-7pm April to Sept. Entrance: £4, children £2.

Anyone who wants to understand the English landscape garden should head for Yorkshire and Studley Royal. Here is the garden created by John Aislabie, the Chancellor of the Exchequer who fell from grace at the time of the South Sea Bubble in 1720. Beyond the park that surrounded Aislabie's home lay the wooded valley of the River Skell; this was the site of his garden. He dammed the stream to make a lake and moved an impressive amount of earth to make a flat, grassy expanse where he laid out a canal and formal pools.

Classical-style buildings — the Temple of Piety peeps out from the trees — and lead statues were positioned as eye-catchers and focal points. But Aislabie never achieved his final ambition for the garden, the purchase of the neighbouring Fountains Abbey estate that would have given him the majestic ruins of the Cistercian abbey as the landscape's climax at the end of the Skell valley. His son achieved this during the 1740s. I can think of few more impressive and rewarding places to walk on an autumn or winter's day — when you might easily have the

glimpse of the Temple of Piety across the moon ponds is an experience few visitors forget.

Dartington Hall, nr Totnes, Devon (01803 862367)

Off A384, 2m north-west of Totnes. Open: daily, dawn to dusk. Entrance: £2 donation.

When Dartington Hall was bought by Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst, of America, in 1925 it was derelict and they embarked on years of restoration. In the garden they turned to the American designer Beatrix Farrand. Dartington was Farrand's only work in England. She introduced a strong design and interesting planting features into the existing garden and linked it to the woodland beyond without disrupting the landscape. From the house, the ground slopes in a series of terraces — along one of which stand sentinel yews called Apostles — down to an expanse of lawn known as the tilt-yard because Plantagenet knights jousted here. On the far side of the garden, a series of broad grass terraces rises up to a Henry Moore sculpture and woodland garden.

Farrand created a network of three paths to wind on different levels among the huge oaks, sweet chestnuts and other mature trees in the woodland garden which runs behind the tilt-yard lawn and along a bank to where it merges with the fields of a longcombe

After the war, Farrand's work was followed up by Percy Cane, who introduced ornamental colour to the woodland and features that Farrand would have felt to be too grandiose — such as the flight of steps.

Oxford Botanic Garden, in Oxford, by Magdalen Bridge (01865 276920)

Open: daily except Dec 25, 9am-5pm (4.30pm in winter). Entrance free, except in midsummer.

Pass through the memorable pedimented stone gateway made by Nicholas Stone, master-mason to the great Inigo Jones, and you are in one of England's most distinguished repositories of horticultural history. Founded in 1621 by the Earl of Danby, on five acres leased from Magdalen College that had previously been a burial ground for Jews, Oxford's is the oldest botanical garden in Britain. By the end of the 17th century it was the first garden in Europe to be distributing a seed list. Sir Joseph Banks trained here in the 18th century and similarly distinguished gardening names, such as Hooker, played a part in the 19th. In autumn and winter the garden's structured orderliness is particularly evident: shrubs grouped by family and geometrically arranged 'order beds' for herbaceous plants. The garden is wonderfully informative, with immaculate labelling, descriptions of plants and their origins and uses.

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THE Landmark Trust, a charity that restores unusual and historic buildings and lets them for self-catering holidays, has some new houses on its books for 1997, including Savkille House, a Tudor-cum-Elizabethan timber-framed house in the High Street, East Grinstead, West Sussex, and Goddards, a Lutynian house at Aldenham, Common, Surrey. The charity is becoming more flexible about its off-season breaks. Starting this month, customers can book a weekend break (Friday to Monday), a midweek stay (Monday to Friday), or a whole week, which can start on a Friday or Monday. The average price for a weekend break for four to six people is just under £300 (inclusive). Prices vary according to the region in which the property is located. In the east, people can have a winter weekend break at Melkè Ascog, a 19th-century house on the Isle of Bute, in the Firth of Clyde, Scotland, at less than £40 a head, £357 in total. But in midweek it could be as little as £25 per person (£250). Alternatively, a week spent at this elegant home costs £482. The trust's handbook (£8.50, refundable on booking), gives full details, including histories, of its rare properties. The trust is virtually fully-booked for Christmas and New Year and is taking bookings for Easter 1997. (Landmark Trust, bookings 01628 825925.)

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a weekend break (Friday to Monday), a midweek stay (Monday to Friday), or a whole week, which can start on a Friday or Monday.

The average price for a weekend break for four to six people is just under £300 (inclusive). Prices vary according to the region in which the property is based. For example, ten people can have a winter weekend break at Meikle Ascog, a 19th-century house on the Isle of Bute, in the Firth of Clyde, Scotland, at less than

£40 a head, £357 in total. But in midweek it could be as little as £25 per person (£250). Alternatively, a week spent at this elegant home costs £482.

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AN ANCIENT cave which helped rewrite the history books is for sale. It lies beneath a Victorian terraced house in Brixham, south Devon.

The cave was discovered in 1858 when a local entrepreneur, Mr Philip, bought a large tract of land on Windmill Hill in Brixham with a view to building houses. The cave proved that pre-historic man lived alongside pre-historic animals.

Contemporary records describe the cave as being about 135ft by 100ft; "containing some large galleries and smaller chambers", although it is actually larger. The cave has five entrances, and the galleries measure about 6ft wide by 10ft high.

Excerpts from the Geological Society's pamphlet tell how bones belonging to cave bears, red deer, a wolf, a hyena, a fox, rabbits, a woolly rhinoceros and a mammoth were found, side by side with man made flints... "and the skeleton of a mature animal of gigantic size".

Mr Philip built a house above the cave, which remained a great attraction long after most of its exhibits were taken to the Natural History Museum in London.

Now a scheduled Ancient Monument, it is one of the most important caves in the country and is being sold with the house for £50,000.

"The the cave runs into the hillside behind the house, the agent, says. "It has a long, windy tunnel with outcrops of stalactites and stalagmites. On one of the stalagmites you can see a piece of reindeer antler stuck to the rock. Archaeologically, the whole cave is both interesting and important." (Details from Jim Churchill, estate agent, Brixham, Devon, 01803 882671.)

THE estate agent John D. Wood is asking £1 million for 215 Krings Road, Chelsea, southwest London, the former home of Dame Ellen Terry, the actress, who lived there from 1904 until 1920, and is commemorated by a brown plaque on the front of building.

Other famous occupants of the



The house, which has an attractive south-facing rear garden, also boasts a large adjoining studio. (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484.)

THE National Trust is letting Lower House, in Kilmescott, Lechlade, Gloucestershire, and the birthplace of William Morris. It is asking £1,500 a week for a five-year let, through Cluttons' Oxford office.

The house is built of local limestone, has stone slate roofs, and incorporates many of the original 17th-century features, such as multi-paned windows, a scrolled wooden door canopy, fireplaces and wood panelling.

There are two main reception rooms, a large kitchen, two bathrooms, five bedrooms, a large garden and an adjoining stone barn.

Jonathan Scott-Smith, of Cluttons, says: "Lower House has immense character and it would not take much to make it into a really beautiful family home." (Cluttons, Oxford, 01865 246611).

The ten-storey block will have a mix of one, two and three-bedroomed flats, some with magnificent panoramic views across the Thames to the Houses of Parliament and St. Paul's Cathedral.

The first flats are expected to be ready for sale by next September. (Details from Fairview New Homes, 0181-366 1271.)

FOXTONS, the London estate agent, says that encouraging buyers and sellers to consider the option of delayed completion of house sales could alleviate the present market

In Putney, southwest London, Foxtons is receiving an enthusiastic response to this notion, even though the area is traditionally dominated by a transient population. In just one week, Foxtons has finalised the sales of two properties with delayed completion times of nine and six months respectively — and both have been sold at figures exceeding the original asking price.

Geoffrey Edmead, of Foxtons, says: "We acknowledge that there is risk in delayed completions — prices could go up or down in the interim — but sellers can also appreciate the benefits it brings in terms of greater

The dearth of good quality London property means that vendors are selling their homes within days, but the delayed completion allows them plenty of time to find a new property. (Pudons, 0171-221 3534.)

● Contributors: Rachel Kelly, Tom Wells and Cheryl Taylor.

[illegible]



The Crittendens with cider press (background, right)

To the manor sworn

Elizabeth I owned but never slept at Bretforton Manor, now for sale at £850,000 — considerably more than the amount she got in 1576 when she sold it to her favourite, the Earl of Leicester, reputedly at the full market price. So much for royal romance.

Dating from the 14th century and radically remodelled in 1602, the house almost buckled when left derelict in the hard-nosed property market of the early 1990s, until rescued and revived by Janet and Brian Crittenden in an act of faith bordering, as they say, on lunacy. Two otherwise sensible people paid £300,000 as seen, or in this case, as imagined.

The property had been vandalised by the weather; the main staircase, some of the floorboards and all the Elizabethan panelling were missing. The floors reeked of cats and, if there were any other original features left,

they were hidden under the black grime of neglect.

Two years, a further £300,000, and 17 assorted builders and craftsmen later, the butter-coloured stone, Grade II listed manor emerged from its tarpaulins, complete with the Elizabethan panelling, which was discovered broken into small sections and rebuilt piece by piece in the entrance hall like a giant jigsaw — a task, I was told, "not as difficult as doing *The Times* crossword".

As I lady-of-the-manor ed my way through the garden among the oaks, limes and beeches, crunching scarlet yew berries underfoot, it occurred to me that if I was getting six bedrooms, five bathrooms and four reception rooms in 73 acres — with outbuildings and grounds worth their own glossy brochure — £850,000 seemed a bargain.

The agent Knight Frank says some people prefer the cachet of living deep in the countryside of the By Royal



A paved corridors at Bretforton Manor, which took two years and more than £300,000 to restore to its original splendour

Appointment neighbouring county of Gloucestershire, where commuting to London is easier, and where this house would fetch about £1.5 million.

However, moving to the Vale of Evesham is hardly being cast into the outer darkness, and living on the edge of a working village whose charter dates from 714, which has not yet been reduced to a dormitory suburb for weekenders, strikes me as a positive advantage. You can use your personal lych gate to the churchyard,

or suddenly appear, pantomime-style, in the village street from one of the many ancient wooden doors set in the garden wall, putting shops, a primary school and a pub all within walking distance.

This is no cold, forbidding pile set in museum aspic. Bretforton has an informal atmosphere of a large village house, despite its many rooms, stone-flagged corridors and beamed, barn-like hall, where the Bathshebas

of the Worcester apple world unsettled the harvest suppers, and a muslin-swathed maiden aunt had one vapour too many and expired of TB while admiring the view. Here the apple crop was processed in the 17th-century black-and-white timbered, thatched cider press, still standing in good repair on the lawn and now used as a very superior garden shed.

On the miserable autumn day I visited, the house was full of light — its E-shape giving most rooms windows on two sides. There was no

feeling of "I wouldn't like to be alone here watching *Tales of the Unexpected* on a foggy November night".

A surprising amount of its history can still be traced. Local legend has it that the born-again oak panelling was taken from a Spanish fighting ship lost at the time of the Armada.

Little remains of the original 14th-century monastery but the gargoyles over the front porch; a Jacobean ivory-coloured plaster frieze decorates the stairwell; the large stone mullioned and



The refurbished hall, fireplace and Elizabethan panelling

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Bretforton Manor, Bretforton, Evesham, Worcestershire. Price: £850,000. Setting: Off the beaten track, 4 miles east of Evesham close to Worcestershire/Gloucestershire border, but easy helicopter ride from Harvey Nichols. Reasonably close to Cheltenham for the races or the ladies' college depending on your priorities. Shopping: Bretforton village has managed to keep hold of its post office, primary school, shops, newsagent and two pubs. Nearest shopping Birmingham.

shuttered windows are 17th century, as are, in the kitchen, the beams, hooks, bread oven and ammunition cupboard (positioned near the fireplace to keep the gunpowder dry).

Call me old-fashioned but the thought of this carefully restored house being turned into 12 maisonettes, with two four-bedroomed houses in the courtyard, makes me blanch. The bad news, then, is that the previous owners obtained planning consent for this conversion: the good news is that the Crittendens ignored it.

Being custodians of history does not mean suffering medieval plumbing and first-generation wiring. The basics are up to date and the central heating system is designed so that the house can be warmed in four separate zones.

And the house is only the half of it. The grounds had reverted to nature so enthusiastically that the Crittendens didn't realise they

owned an orchard until one of their children, clearing the brambles, discovered a wooden bridge by the lake and explored.

Step out on to the lawn, where the Bretforton Silver Band plays for charity in summer and at Christmas, towards the edge of the copse by the all-white garden. There stands the unrestored Victorian aviary where canaries once sang, and the apiary.

Stroll a little further to inspect the dovecote and village stocks waiting for their moment to come again.

Do not think that the Crittendens have done all the work for you: the coach-house, stables and tack room are unrestored, full of dust, clutter, ancient oak cupboards, and an enclosed staircase. This is left for future generations of the next family to make their mark.

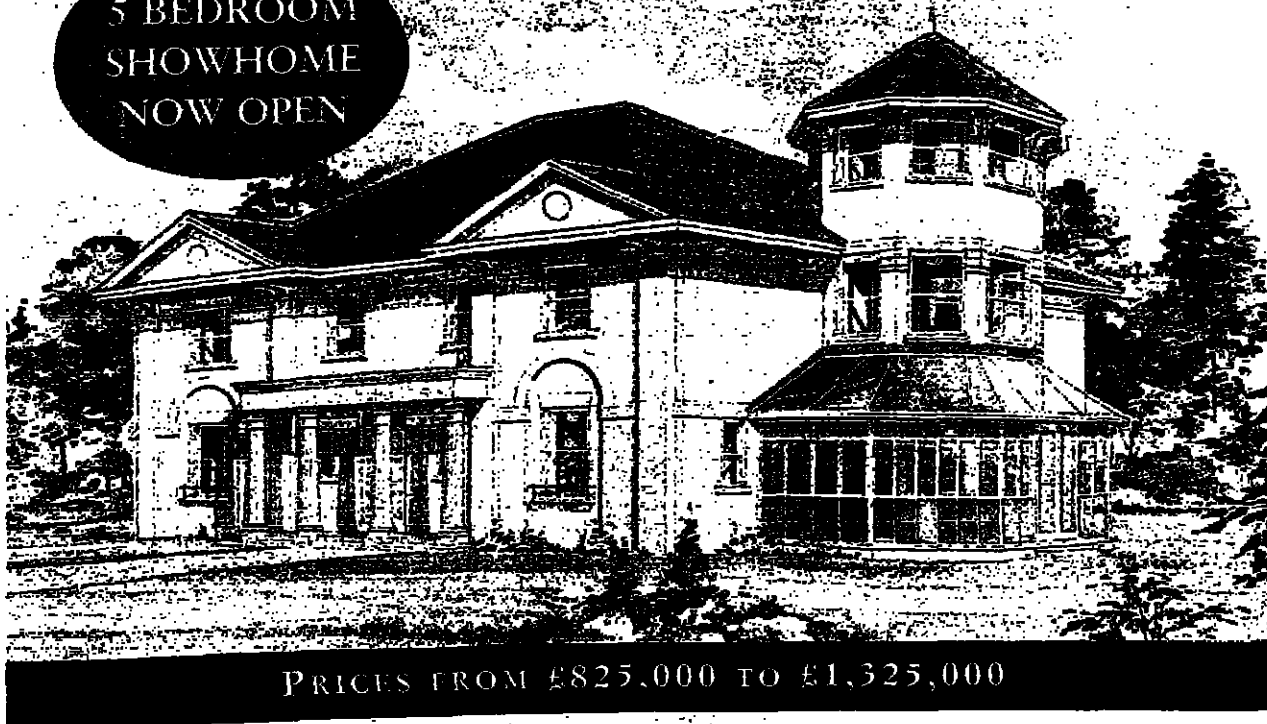
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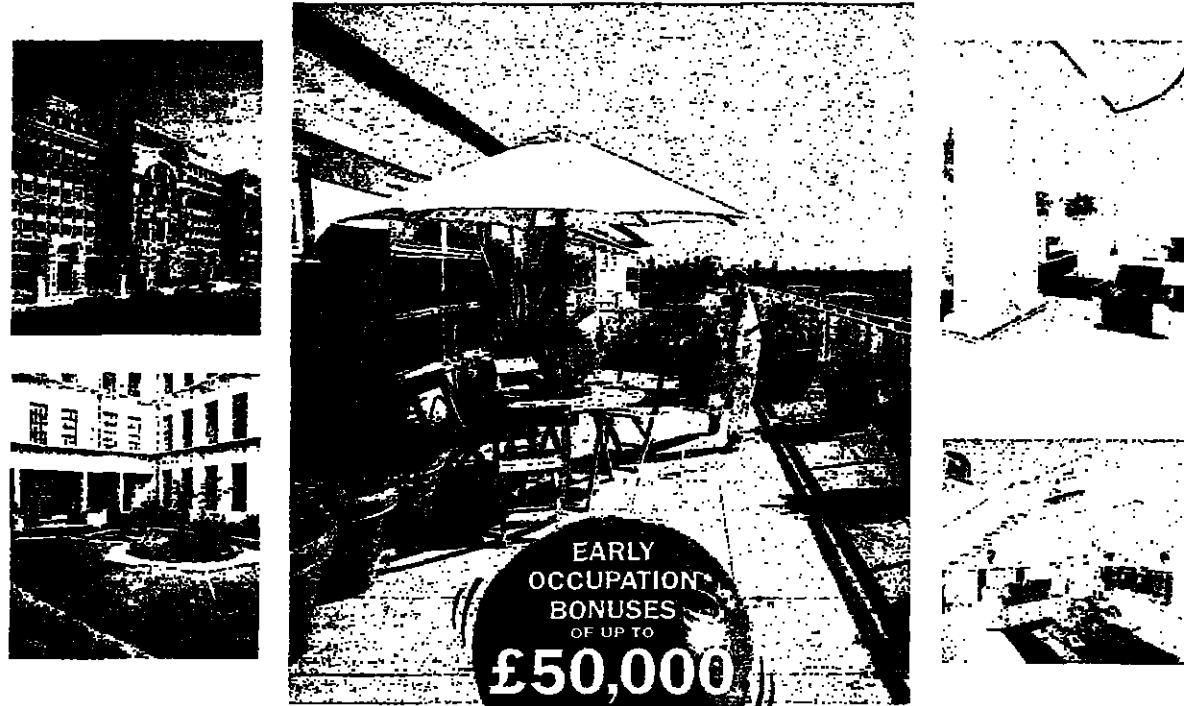
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£280,000

DORSET
Frampton House, Frampton. Remaining Grade II listed east wing of what was once Frampton Court, a Georgian mansion, owned by the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan and his family until 1932. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen and utility room. Garage, stables and eight acres of gardens and paddocks. About £280,000 (Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01305 282129)

£650,000

East
Easton Court, Easton, near Sandwich. Grade I listed house in 1.6 acres of gardens and grounds, listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest inhabited remains in Britain. The house was built for King Ethelbert and Queen Bertha of Kent in AD 600 on the site of a former archiepiscopal palace. It was handed to the monks of Christ Church in Canterbury in AD 827 by King Ethelred the Unready. Eight bedrooms, two bathrooms, two shower-rooms, four reception rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast room. Outbuildings. About £650,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01227 451123)

CHERYL TAYLOR

Fireplace sales hot up

On a crisp autumn or winter's day, there is nothing quite like the crackle of logs burning in a grate, the pop of chestnuts roasting out of their skins, and the taste of crumpets toasted before the flames.

After years of being spurned by modern housebuilders, and with the growth of central heating, fireplace surrounds are now so greatly admired that they are becoming status symbols. A good surround can be costly. One English Rococo marble specimen was sold recently for £450,000 by Crowther of Syon Lodge, Isleworth, Middlesex, specialists in architectural antiques.

The company's showroom offers dozens of fire surrounds, including an elegant early 18th-century English marble example at £19,500, an elaborately carved early 19th-century marble one from the former Iranian Embassy in London (gutted by fire at the end of the 1980 siege) at £50,000, and a £30,000 Regency example from Melton Lodge, London, with a centre tablet showing a family of beavers building their lodge.

Such pieces add value to properties, says Edward Caudwell, of the Chelsea estate agents Aylesford. "We sold a house in Petersham, southwest London, in which the client had put in two fire surrounds and said that they were available only by separate negotiation. The buyer paid several thousand extra to keep them."

"At a £500,000 house we sold, the owner took a surround with him because it was a wedding present. Had the building been listed he could have met with opposition, because such listings usually cover fireplaces, even if they are not the same age as the house."

The value of a fire surround can lead to other problems. The playwright Christopher Hampton, who recently moved to Notting Hill, west London, was dismayed to find all the fireplaces in his new house had been stolen, including one he had transported from his old home in Hammersmith.

Peter Wetherell, of agency Wetherell's, says: "We have a

Today's fire surrounds add more than sentimental value to a home



This early 18th-century English marble fire surround is for sale at £19,500 by Crowther of Syon Lodge, Middlesex

property in St James's Square where there's 24-hour security because the fireplaces are worth a fortune."

Most fire surrounds are surprisingly easy to remove, since they are usually held to the wall only by half a dozen wire or screw ties, covered with a superficial layer of plaster. They often divide into four pieces: mantel, two uprights and the centrepiece.

"Sometimes, we cement these fireplaces in while a building is being refurbished," Mr Wetherell says. "When we show buyers around, they see a bunker on the wall. We have to ask them to take our word for it that there is a fireplace."

But, once, he was wrong: "A thief came and stole the fireplaces from behind their bunkers, then re-concreted. We had no idea they were gone until the property was sold and we took the bunkers away. Now, many of our clients take chimney pieces out, put them in secure

storage while they develop a property, then put them back when it's finished."

Developers are aware of the value of good fire surrounds. North Acre is refurbishing 25 houses in Kensington, London, and replacing missing surrounds with marble reproductions.

Another developer, Thirstone Homes, commissioned Lord Linley's Furniture Company to make ten fire surrounds costing several thousand pounds. "We felt they gave the houses individuality," says Tony Pidgley, the managing director. "When buyers are choosing their fire surrounds we find they often pay a lot more than the builder's allowance. If we allowed £1,000 for one, we'd sometimes find they would spend £2,500."

Some builders and homeowners buy antique fire surrounds from specialist yards. Mick Clarke, of Clarke's of Buckfastleigh, Devon, says:

"There's no textbook guide to the value of an antique fireplace. My prices fluctuate according to whether it's difficult to get something, and how easy it is to sell. There are very few Regency and Georgian houses in this area, so it's hard to sell fireplaces from those eras."

"We have a classic Regency marble fire surround with bull's eye rondels that would be sought after in Bath or Cheltenham that we're selling at £900. A similar style in pine sells for about £245, which is roughly where our Victorian iron inserts start."

"A Victorian Sicilian grey-flecked white marble surround costs £500 to £1,200." Marble is as popular now for a fire surround as it was in the late 19th century when people who could not afford the real thing bought slate surrounds skillfully painted to mimic marble.

There is also a new demand for Welsh slate fireplaces, and Cwt y Bugail Slate Quarries at Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, restarted production six years ago. A full fireplace costs £1,200, but most developers buy a single £60 slab of slate to form a floor for a wood-burning stove.

Stone fire surrounds are also enjoying a revival. Farmington Stone, of North-leach, Gloucestershire, makes Cotswold stone versions for various builders, including Beazers and Bryant. Prices start at £300, rising to £10,000 for intricately carved one-offs.

"An American billionaire, who fell in love with a Cotswold mansion while touring over here, decided to build an exact replica in Pennsylvania, and we were commissioned to supply the architectural stonework and the fire surrounds," says Martin Robins, of Farmington's. "Now, deep in the heart of America, you can sit around a Cotswold stone fireplace and warm the cockles of your heart."

CHRISTINE WEBB

● Crowther of Syon Lodge, 0181-560 7978. Clarke's of Buckfastleigh, 01364 643060. Thirstone Homes, 01932 242600. Farmington Stone, 01451 860280.

HOMESWAP

What you can get for the same money around the country

£119,000

A 78-year lease on this one-bedroom ground-floor pied terre in Rosemoor Street, Chelsea, west London (above) costs £119,000. Winkworth, 0171-589 6616

£120,000

Alternatively, £120,000 would secure this Grade II listed three-bedroom period cottage in the picturesque village of West Scrutton, near Leyburn in the North Yorkshire dales (above). It was once used as a holiday home by the author James Herriot. GA Property Services, 01959 623451

£120,000

For the same price, you could buy this detached three-bedroom character cottage, near Rye in East Sussex (above). It has an inglenook fireplace, exposed beams, a separate studio, double garage and a large garden backing onto woodland. GA Property Services, 01757 252365

CHERYL TAYLOR

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صلى الله عليه وسلم

Now let us praise the knacker's yard men



by
PAUL HEINEY

Easy though it is to moan about what the countryside does not have, let us, for one moment, give thanks to two noble rural callings which have come to my rescue this past week. Neither, I am afraid, make a first choice of breakfast reading; more tender souls may wish to save this article until later. But these things are the everyday nuts and bolts of rural life. The first is septic tanks, the second is moribund livestock.

I have owned two septic tanks in my life. I was desperately proud of the first, and am somewhat ashamed of the second. Plumbers from far and wide used to come and pay their respects to the first; they would lift the iron lids and gaze in wonderment into the bubbling depths, marvelling at brickwork that only a Victorian could have created.

It was truly like a temple in there, curved arches of bright red brick as carefully crafted as any town hall entrance. The whole edifice was built in three sections, the contents cascading from one to the next, at every fall becoming purer until, at the end, there was nothing left but water. This soaked away into the orchard and gave us bumper crops. It never gave off odour, never needed attention, never required emptying. It was a perfect marriage of biochemistry and brickwork. And I miss it dreadfully.

We now have a septic tank built in the 1970s and it is a poor imitation. Instead of being able to forget all about it, as I could with

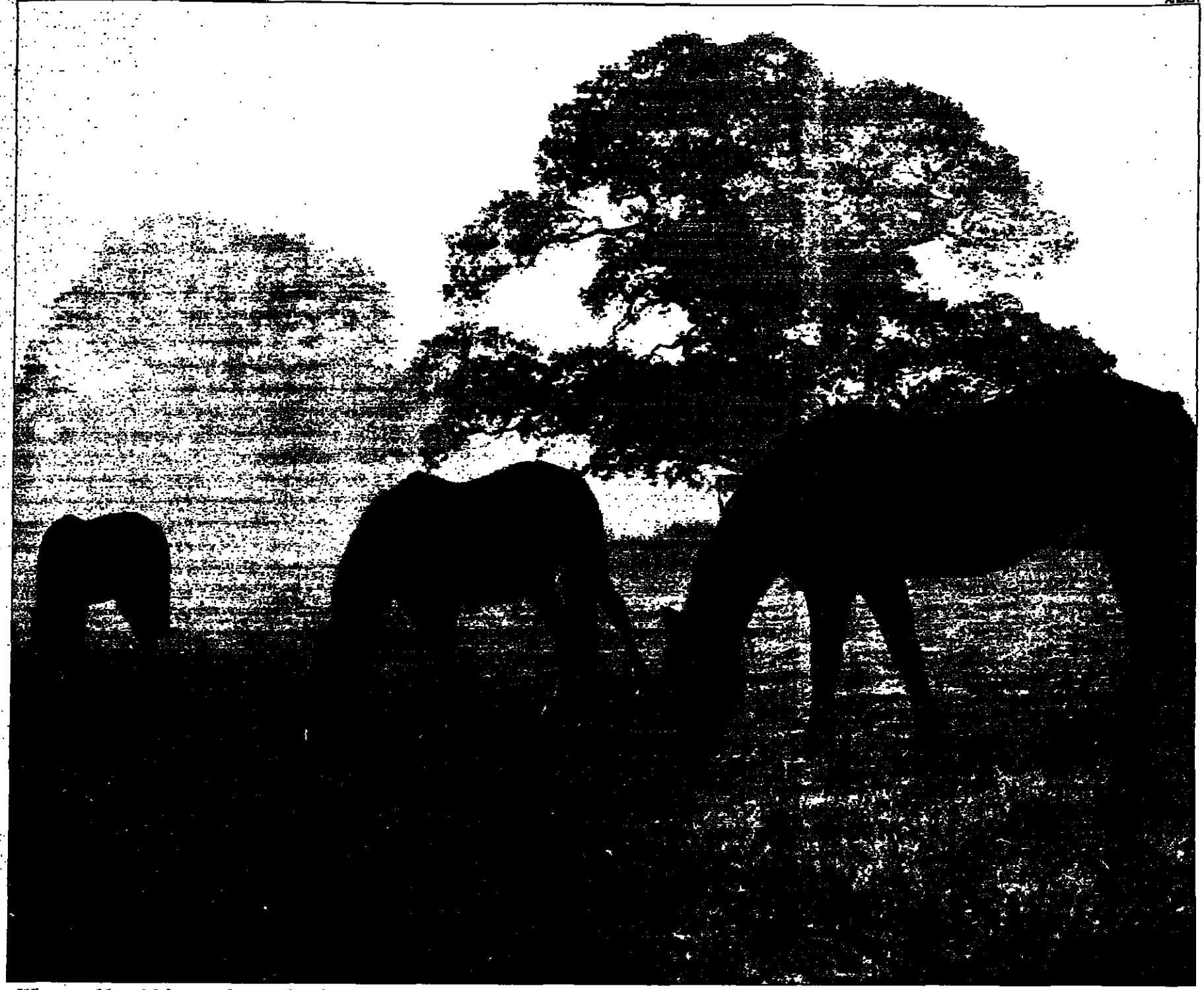
my first, this one regularly draws my attention to it. First, it emits a slight odour and, if I ignore that, it will start to heave its lids at me like something from a Spielberg movie. It is telling me it is full. It should never be full. I have tried telling it to get its lids act together and learn a bit of basic biochemistry, anaerobics and all that, but it will have none of it. The result is that I phone the tanker driver who comes with his great stinking sucker and solves the problem for a while.

The septic tank man is the first of the rural callings to which I ask you to give thanks. He is descended from a noble lineage that can trace its roots back to the night-soil man who trundled through the dark with his horse and cart, emptying privies.

Of course, towns are not without their sewage engineers, but the difference for country folk is that we have to face ours, look them and our residues in the face. Those of us who have no access to the main drains have to take care of the business ourselves.

Have you tried to make small talk to a man who is emptying your cesspit? I could easily close the windows, hide and let him get on with it, but it seems only right to share in the grief. After all, if he gets lonely out there he might decide to pack the whole business in, and who then would deal with the filthy rising tide?

I am grateful to him and his profession for the service he provides. And also to the man who this week had to remove



When an old or sick horse at last reaches the end of its life it is the knacker men who provide the final, humane treatment, an essential rural job that is under threat

from the farm the carcass of my daughter's pony. Ebony was struck down, as horses sometimes are, by a sudden, crippling abdominal problem which reduced her from full fitness to final torment in a matter of hours.

It is bad enough to have to watch the painful death of a much-loved family pony; there is another kind of panic when one considers what to do after the vet has administered that kindest form of medicine, the exploding bolt of the humane killer.

Knacker men, as they are still called, are members of another

profession for which we must be grateful. Knackering is never going to be offered as a career option to school leavers, applicants for an NVQ in it would be few and far between, and I fear they are never going to make it on to a calendar of rural crafts. But when it comes to the humane and dignified treatment of dead or dying animals — particularly horses — knacker men can claim to have done as much for animal welfare as any number of fancy sanctuaries.

Much as it may distress us, there comes a time in an animal's

life when the bullet is the kindest thing. I would not wish to press the trigger, or deal with the aftermath, and remain thankful that there are men who will.

It is another of those essential rural jobs that is hanging on by a hair's breadth. As was explained to me, tactfully, deadstock used to be collected free of charge; now it costs £60. It is because the knacker used to be able to sell the bones and offal to be rendered into bonemeal. But the latest controls over possible BSE have put a stop to that.

I gladly paid for a decent disposal of Ebony, thankful that it was available; I shudder to think of the financial blow the new charges must be to farmers — hill farmers, for instance — already operating on the breadline.

Anyway, as I watched the stiff, black body of the poor mare being winched unceremoniously into the back of the truck, destined probably for pet food, I remembered the days even before my daughter rode her, when she was my smart driving pony and we trotted through lanes, sniffing blossom together, enjoying the

fresh air, the thrill of the open road, the jing on the creak of country living.

Sometimes there are things about real life out here that are raw and difficult to swallow; the bits that the glossy country magazines never feature, the crumbs of daily rural life that are to few people's taste.

It does not mean these things should be forgotten.

● Readers can write to The Times Countryside Campaign, c/o Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

RONALD FAUX on how artificial paths can save the Lake District

If you fly slowly over the Lake District hills in a small aircraft, the erosion inflicted by the sheer pressure of feet springs into alarming focus. Like scars on a familiar face, worn footpaths stand livid against the giant flanks of Helvellyn and Skiddaw. The track to the summit of Grisedale Pike has the pallor of bone breaking the surface of skin. As the aircraft banks above the pathway across High Street, between Froskwick and Rampgill Head, more wear and tear is plainly visible.

The earliest was caused by the feet of Roman legionnaires who marched this way a couple of millennia ago. A few more million feet have added their impression in dark, widening stains where the ground is soft, or in shining smoothness where the surface cover has worn away to the rock.

Over Kirkstone Pass, cars wind their way like a procession of ants. But the good news is that the Lake District Tourist Board has discovered that, mercifully, only a minority of motorists venture more than a few yards from their vehicles.

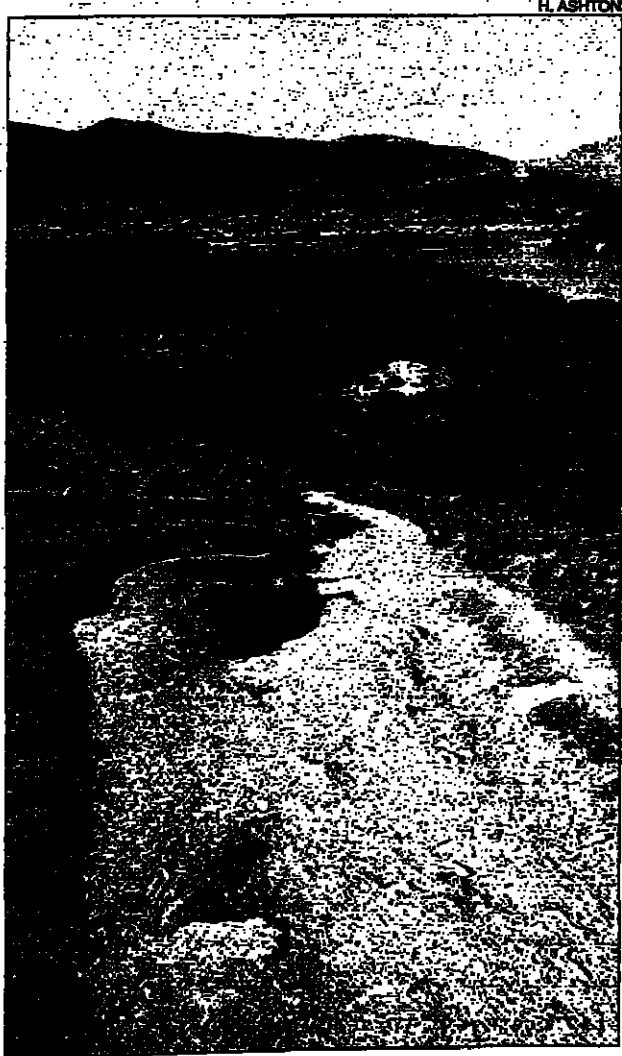
Amblecote is at the centre of a spider's web of tracks, the Fairfield Horseshoe picked out in a grey, metallic line where passing feet put a polish on the underlying granite. Westward into the amphitheatre of Great Langdale, we glide above the slopes created by Pike of Stickle, Rossett Crag and Bow Fell, names that have magic in them to those who love this place.

The scars are plainly visible, scars inflicted by those who, ironically, come here to admire the very scenery that is, perhaps, threatened by their presence.

Professional and volunteer groups are dedicated to stemming a seemingly implacable tide, one not unique to the Lake District. In the neighbouring Yorkshire Dales, Three Peaks Walk has become a man-made causeway one metre wide, threading across moorland in a line of hardcore dumped by helicopter.

In the Lake District, the National Park Authority, the tourist board, the National Farmers' Union and the Friends of the Lake District agonise over ways to protect

Just too many feet to the acre



Catbells (1,482ft), near Derwentwater, is one of the areas where paths are being worn away to bare rock by walkers

pressure than most. But it seems that as one footpath is repaired, another batch of Lake District walking guides hits the bookshelves, introducing another stampede of feet into newly-discovered corners of Cumbria.

Peter Davies, the area manager of the Lake District National Park, says the solution to erosion of footpaths in the upland areas is not to stop people enjoying the hills but to find ways of minimising

their boots and protecting the landscape. He talks about creating "sensitive paths" that blend in with the landscape but which can carry the number of people using the hills.

English Nature, North West Water and the National Park Authority, with financial backing from the European Regional Development Fund, are working out integrated management plans for two upland areas cover-

(about 27,000 acres) of massif surrounding Helvellyn and Skiddaw.

They have started by counting the numbers of walkers, runners and mountain-bikers who take to the hills on a fine day. From one car park alone on the slopes of Skiddaw, 600 people a week set out.

Alasdair Brock, a project officer, suggests that controls must be subtle. Limiting car park space could be one way. Eighty-five per cent of the people who climb to the 3,054ft summit of Skiddaw arrive at the foot by car.

Another control might be to realign paths away from sensitive areas; walkers are probably unaware they are destroying rhamnetrium heath, which is rare and does not take kindly to being trampled on or, for that matter, nibbled by sheep.

On Helvellyn, the project steering group has produced a plan more pragmatic than cunning. They have set up a users' forum to resolve conflicts of interest.

England's only population of downy willow is being protected by strict conservation measures and an area of juniper woodland is being regenerated.

On Dollywaggon Pike, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers has revived a badly worn footpath to make an attractive alternative to the nearby Striding Edge, a rocky knife-edge under immense pressure from fell walkers.

Sir Chris Bonington, the president of the Council of National Parks and a resident in the Lake District National Park, believes the programme of professional and voluntary work, in its many strands, is allowing rugged yet fragile mountain areas to absorb the impact of too many feet.

He insists that reducing the numbers of people going into the hills, apart from being difficult to achieve, must never be seen as a solution. The thud of feet may be deafening but he remains sanguine.

"Building upland footpaths in a sensitive way actually enables an ever-increasing number of people to enjoy our British hills without doing them severe damage and, at the same time, enables the hills to

Mystery of the bouncing bird

FEATHER REPORT

LAST WEEKEND I saw a jack snipe. I was in a hide in Hertfordshire that looks over the marshy edge of a small lake. Outside, in the damp sedge, was a small bird crouching motionless. At first glance it might have been a lump of dead vegetation or mud. But if you looked hard you could see it was a plump little bird, with its head buried between its brown shoulders. Along its back there was a yellow-buff line that gleamed in the sun.

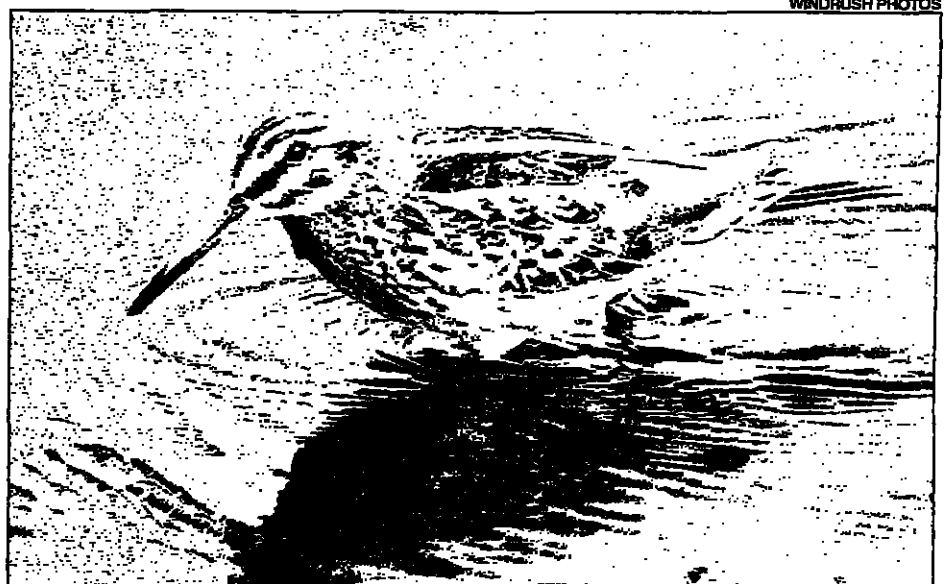
It was clearly a snipe, and from its size it seemed to be a jack snipe, which is three inches shorter than a common snipe. However, sizes of birds are hard to judge, and the only clear difference is that the jack snipe's beak is very much shorter. But this bird's beak was hidden. A common snipe obligingly came wading across from a muddy island at that moment, displaying plainly its long, pencil-like beak. It looked a much bigger bird than mine, yet the comparison was still, I felt, not decisive.

The mystery bird remained motionless, sleeping confidently. Out on a muddy island in the lake I watched some teal who were also sleeping then two green sandpipers came skittering in, their white rumps flashing, and landed by the teal. The jack snipe, if that was what it was, remained stubbornly still.

After a while I decided to go for a walk, and just hope that it would still be there when I came back, but more ready to shift itself. I found two grey herons, also motionless, in a wet meadow, and a very active flock of long-tailed tits, swinging on the twigs of some willows.

But I was impatient, and after half an hour went back again. The almost featureless hump was still there, in exactly the same spot. The green sandpipers were bathing now, splashing about in the water, then came out and preened.

Surely the hump would move soon. And then it did.



The jack snipe is smaller than the common snipe and has a very much shorter beak

shoulders, and I could see the short beak clearly. I could even see the other diagnostic feature — the absence of a stripe down the crown of the head. It was definitely a jack snipe.

And I was to have further confirmation. Suddenly the bird started bouncing up and down on the spot. It was an extraordinary movement, like some kind of clockwork toy.

THIS STRANGE behaviour, with the whole body bouncing up and down, is only found in the jack snipe, and in its large relative, the woodcock. It is thought to disturb worms and encourage them to the surface.

As it happened, I went to see Michael Tilson Thomas conducting the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra the following night — and he sometimes bounced up and down on bended legs in exactly the same way as my jack snipe. He was extracting music from the orchestra, not worms from the earth — but it seemed to give a pattern to my weekend.

DERWENT MAY

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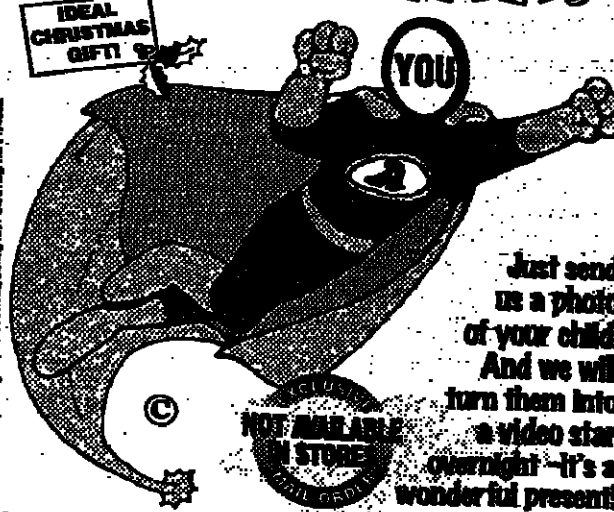
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Fido is a wolf in dogs' clothing

A TV programme tonight explores the wild origin of dogs, the real reason why they bark at the postman and their relationships with owners. **NIGEL HAWKES** reports

Today's dogs, as varied as the great dane and the Yorkshire terrier, all owe their origins to the wolf. Their instincts and behaviour, even after thousands of years of domestication, still bear the traces of this ancestry.

Quiet and obedient as they may seem, a more violent and combative nature lies not far below the surface. That Dr Jekyll lying by the fireside can become Mr Hyde when threatened, or when he ventures out of doors.

The private life of the dog is explored in an innovative documentary, *A Dog's World*, to be shown on Channel 4 tonight. The programme is an attempt to enter the mind of the dog, to show how they perceive us and the world around them. (Cat-lovers can see the same attempt made to understand their pets next week.)

The dog, says the documentary, is basically a wolf in an arrested state of development — the result of a process known to evolutionary biologists as neoteny.

Wolf puppies are playful, rolling around and threatening nobody. As they get older, they begin to carry things around, showing the instinct to retrieve is genetically imprinted. Later still they learn to herd fleeing animals by running around them in circles, and finally they learn to hunt.

Traces of most of these behaviours are commonplace in dogs. The film shows a family taking its two dogs for a walk in the park. One of the dogs insists on circling incessantly around the group, responding to the ancient urge to herd. But few domestic dogs actually hunt today, if you exclude killing rats and mice, at which they can be swift and skilful.

Looking at various breeds of dog it is possible to identify the stage at which development has been arrested. The research was originally done by Professor Raymond Coppinger, of Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. The Pyrenean mountain dog, originally bred to mix with flocks of sheep in the mountains and discourage wolves, is a great puppy-like creature that does not herd, retrieve or hunt. But it retains strong pack instincts and is ready to defend sheep against the attacks



Corgis are closer to the wild

of foxes or other dogs. This particular breed has been successfully reintroduced in France and the United States, greatly reducing sheep losses.

Most breeds of dog are the product of arresting the normal course of development at different stages. Retrievers reached the second stage, border collies the third. Corgis, well known for their propensity to nip, are closer to the wild type — but few dogs today go the whole way and learn to hunt. That needs training, and dogs that are separated from their mothers at eight weeks and begin living in intimate association with humans never get such an education.

What they do retain, and what tonight's programme illustrates, is a strong pack instinct. In wolves, the hierarchy of the pack is maintained through ritual behaviour, and much the same happens in the home. Dogs are not natural egalitarians. As members of the human pack, they are constantly attempting to assert their position, or to improve it in subtle ways, such as winning the right to sit in a certain chair.

Often they will assert these rights in the absence of the pack leader, but fall back into line as soon as he or she appears. The acute hearing of dogs

enables them to leap to the defence of their pack long before any human has detected a threat. A black Labrador named Quail, which features in the documentary, can recognise the sound of his owner's car engine several streets away, picking up the characteristic whine of the gearbox and a rubbing fan belt. The ability to detect and distinguish such high-pitched sounds once helped dogs find small prey, and a dog today can still locate the source of a sound in one 600th of a second.

Defence of the pack also lies behind the barking that greets the milkman and the postman every morning. Dogs do not bark to communicate with one another — hunting wolves have much subtler forms of communication — but they have learnt that barking alerts the human pack.

The behaviour is strongly reinforced because it works: bark at the milkman and he goes away. The fact that he would go away anyway is lost on a dog.

The most obscure part of a dog's life for us is scent. This is a whole sensual world denied to us because we lack a canine nose. The average dog, the programme asserts, has 220 million scent receptors in its nose, while we have only about five million. If the membranes of the dog's nose were laid out flat they would cover seven square metres, against half a square metre for humans.

The process of stroking and petting a dog spreads common odours throughout the pack, reinforcing allegiance. To a dog it is a mystery why humans wash away their familiar scents every day, for a dog prefers animal scents to any other. A dog can detect butyric acid, a constituent of human sweat, in concentrations a million times lower than we can.

The incredible sensitivity of a dog's nose may explain how they can appear sensitive to human mood, perhaps detecting tiny changes in body scents that are lost on the rest of us.

Louise Jones of the production company Wall to Wall, which made the programmes on dogs and cats, says they are an attempt to move away from the time-honoured tradition of natural history filming. "Doing it that way, you send a cameraman away



As members of the human pack, dogs try to assert their position, such as sitting in a certain chair.

for weeks and weeks and write a film around what he manages to get," she said. "That seemed to us to be back to front."

The approach taken in the two programmes was, she says, to develop a tight script first and

know what they wanted to film before they went out. "It doesn't mean you necessarily get it, of course. But we wanted to make the films more like dramas, and we also wanted to incorporate humans. The traditional natural

history film makes a strange creature seem familiar — we wanted to show the strangeness in a familiar creature."

● *A Dog's Life* is on Channel 4 tonight at 8pm.

A VET WRITES

WE ARE LIVING longer, and so too are our pets and for the same reasons: a better diet, and plenty of it, better medical care, and better and warmer housing. Old age cannot be avoided — nor the associated problems with senility. Animals are designed to last for a limited life. Then bits and pieces start to wear out. Kidneys become inefficient filters, hearts don't pump as well as they did and joint surfaces become eroded: teeth wear down, sight and hearing fail.

Wild animals don't have these difficulties because few reach old age. Only the agile and quick-witted escape predators — or win battles with their own kind. Death in nature is often violent and early in life.

Pets are protected from most hazards. The majority of pets reach old age because of good care and attention from their owners, which makes those last years enjoyable, comfortable and interesting.

Old dogs and cats sleep a lot, so make sure they have a good bed, just above ground level (jumping up is hard work) and large enough to allow them to stretch out. Changing position takes the ache out of rheumatic joints. Very old animals get frightened — primitive instincts come to the fore — "I'm weak and frail, can't fight or run away." A sleeping box with a ceiling helps. A large cardboard box on its side can make a grandfather cat feel secure.

EXTRA meals help, not more food, just more often. Three or four "high spots" daily and more time to absorb nourishment for a digestive system that is slowing down. Getting out of bed to feed or stroll outdoors avoids that stiffening which happens after a long lie down.

Old dogs need walks. Exercise provides a high spot, a chance to empty an unreliable bladder. Well-trained dogs are upset if accidents occur.

Grooming is extra-important in old age — especially in cats and long-haired dogs because it is too much trouble to keep themselves clean. The coat gets matted, tangled and permeable. Use a comb, even if the dog or cat objects. After they've endured combing, and look clean and tidy again, pride is restored and they feel more comfortable.

If your dog or cat drinks more water than usual, if overnight puddles appear, if a cough starts, or feeding becomes difficult, visit the vet. While you're there see if the nails need cutting — shorter walks mean less wear — or the teeth need descaling. And if any funny lumps appear, find out what they are. Don't avoid asking if it is malignant. Most aren't. Nothing will make a pet live for ever, but little attentions can make life enjoyable to the end.

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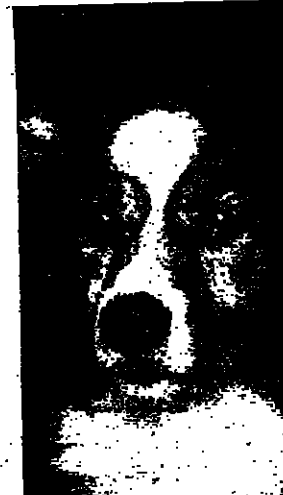
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Butch likes to be boss

RUTH GLEDHILL on the ordination of Anglicans into the Catholic Church Preaching to the converted



WHO WERE all these people robed in white, and where did they come from? The Book of the Apocalypse, or Revelation told us: "They are those who have passed through the great ordeal, they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb." Seated in front of us but soon to prostrate themselves before the throne, on the sanctuary steps, there were indeed ten men aged from 31 to 82, all robed in white. Cardinal Basil Hume, on the throne and dressed in white robes, was about to ordain them as priests in the Roman Catholic Church.

This was no ordinary ordination. These men had once been priests, vicars, in the Church of England. Four of them were married, some with children. In the belief that their mother church did not possess the authority it claimed when its governing body, the General Synod, voted to ordain women priests, they had taken the difficult decision to convert to Catholicism. Westminster cathedral was packed, with standing room only, with the priests' families and their new and old congregations welcoming them to their new church.

Mgr Thomas Egan, the Vicar General of the diocese, called the candidates forward and presented them to Cardinal Hume, asking him to ordain them in the name of the "holy mother Church." "Do you judge them to be worthy?" asked the Cardinal. "After inquiry among the people of Christ and upon recommendation of those concerned with their training, I testify that they have been found worthy," Mgr Egan said.

The ten men had enjoyed a fast track to ordination, thanks in part to their previous service in the Anglican church. The situation here is delicate, because 100 years ago the Pope decreed that Anglican orders were



Cardinal Basil Hume at Westminster

"null and void", and officially that is still the view. However, the present Pope, John Paul II, has granted a special dispensation to allow the Anglicans to be ordained, even where they are married, and despite the Catholic Church's celibacy rule.

Cardinal Hume read a statement from Rome: "The Holy Catholic Church recognises that not a few of the sacred actions of the Christian religion as carried out in communities separated from her can truly engender a life of grace and can rightly be described as providing access to the community of salvation," he said. He thanked God for their years of faithful ministry in the Anglican church, "whose fruitfulness for salvation has been derived from the very fullness of grace and truth entrusted to the Catholic Church."

The Cardinal then examined the candidates. They were required to be conscientious fellow workers with the bishops in caring for the Lord's flock, to celebrate faithfully the mysteries of Christ, to exercise the ministry of the word, worthily and wisely and to

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ARCHBISHOP: Cardinal Basil Hume
SERMON: The desire for full communion between the Catholic church and other Christian bodies. ★★★★★

ARCHITECTURE: Byzantine structure. Magnificent interior with the dominant bare red brick. ★★★★★

MUSIC: As always, the choir and organist at this cathedral excelled. ★★★★★

LITURGY: From the English translation of the Roman missal. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Profoundly moving. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee, tea and a superb buffet lunch. ★★★★★

consecrate their lives to God for the salvation of his people. This was All Saints Day, and the cantor led us in the evocative Litany of the Saints, before the Cardinal prayed for God to "pour out upon the servants of yours the blessing of the Holy Spirit and the grace and power of the priestly office."

Those about to be ordained, who had been prostrate, then stood while, in silence, the Cardinal laid his hands on the head of each one, and all the priests present did the same. They were invested with their stoles and chasubles while we all sang *Veni, creator Spiritus*.

These ordinations, on the 50th anniversary of the Pope's ordination, brought the number of former Anglicans ordained in Westminster to 27, with more due to be ordained next year. More than 300 Anglican clergy have resigned from the Church of England over the ordination of women priests.

● Metropolitan Cathedral of the Most Precious Blood, Ambroden Avenue, London SW1P 1QJ (0171-798 9055)

TONY WHITE

Big wide bottoms but they're still the latest supermodels

Designers have taken the bright and beautiful approach to help kettles shake off their cosy image. **SUDI PIGOTT** looks at some of the best buys

TO WHISTLE or not to whistle is the hot question in the kitchen. The new steam kettles are available not only in kitchen co-ordinated colours, but in provocative shapes and ultra-modern materials, and may even have a designer label — Philippe Starck's radical design for Hot Bertaa couldn't be further removed from the kettle's former cosy image. Gleaming, polished steel kettles are still in greatest demand, reflecting the popularity of high-tech,

industrial-look cookers. And hob-top kettles are back, complete with nostalgic whistling lids. The idea of a tea-kettle first came from China, but the covered and spouted kettle that we know was developed in the early 1800s, coinciding with the introduction of the afternoon tea ritual. Tea-tasters generally favour kettles that have wide, flat bottoms so that they bring the water to the boil as quickly as possible to help to make the definitive pot of tea.



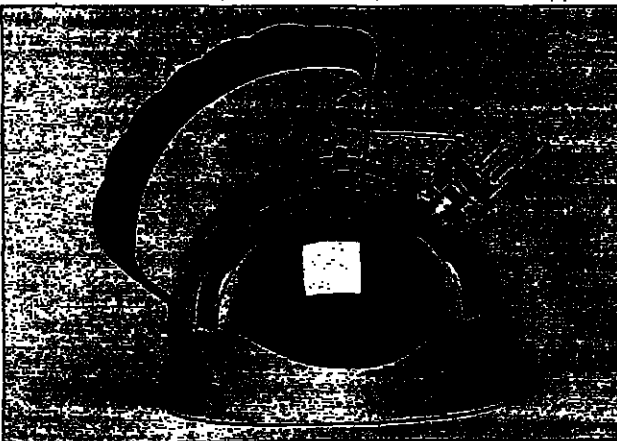
BODUM
Ibis cordless jug kettle with filter for limescale and safety locking lid (£28) in nine colours, from Heals, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1866) and Bodum (01451 810480)



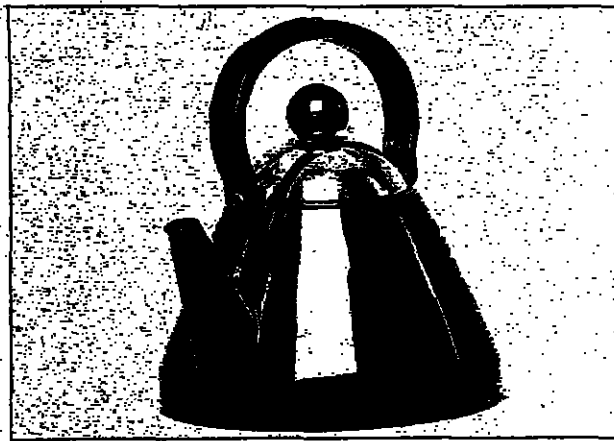
KENWOOD
Plastic, automatic Discovery travel jug kettle (two-cup/0.75 litre) with boil-dry protection device (£14.75) from John Lewis stores nationwide (0171-629 7711)

PHILIPPE STARCK

Hot Bertaa kettle in cast aluminium with grey silicon resin finish, £113, from the Algerian Coffee Shop, 52 Old Compton Street, London W1 (0171-437 2480)

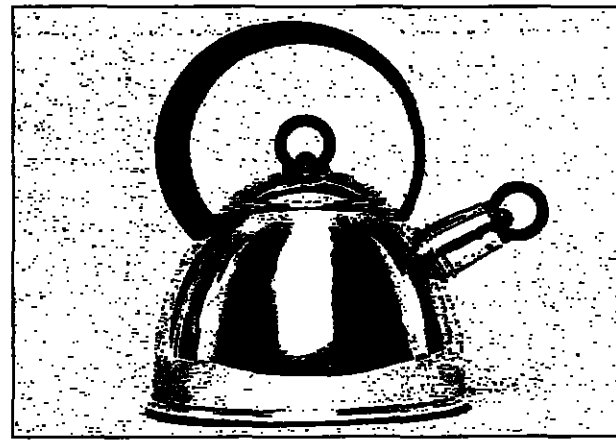


ALESSI
Classic steel kettle with "afro-curve" handle. Three-litre capacity (£140); two-litre capacity (£118) from Oggetti (0171-584 9808)



ARGOS

Whistling, traditional-shaped stainless steel hob kettle (£9.99) from Argos branches nationwide (01908 600161)



BRABANTIA

"Christmas pud" shaped stainless steel kettle (£26.95) from the Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7401)

Like a thief in the night

PERSONAL LIFE

BY ROSE CHARLTON

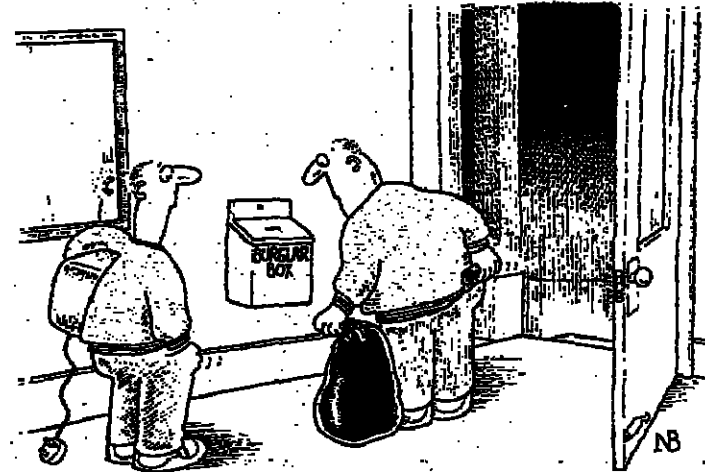
In the same way that the little old lady in James Thurber used to leave her belongings in a pile outside the door, with a note saying, "Dear burglar, please take these and do not use your chloroform, as this is all I have", I spend a lot of time brooding about burglars.

Lying in bed listening to the sinister cadenza of squeaks and moans that is part of the nightly repertoire of a house jerry-built by early 19th-century navvies, I tell myself that worrying about people coming and committing outrages on my property and person is a perfectly reasonable thing to do, especially if, like me, you live alone with a four-year-old in a reasonably dodgy part of southeast London.

Shortly after moving in, I went through the motions of the concerned and responsible householder, fitting window locks to the elegant sashes (themselves of a lacelike fragility) and installing a front door of brush steel, bristling with multiple deadlocks. Three years have passed without incident, though I am always faintly amazed, on returning home after the briefest journey, to find the place intact.

Pendant to my anxiety about villains breaking in, is my fear of being shut out. This probably has its origins in a memorable Christmas day a couple of years ago, when our festive visit to my sister and brother-in-law was enlivened by their locking themselves out of their magnificent Kensington flat, incinerating in the process their two highly sensitive cats, together with a large number of gaily burning candles.

In the end they had to call the fire brigade to break their nice stout door down. It took the stout fellows, once they'd stopped laughing, about 30 seconds, using a handy implement called a wrecker bar. They turned down my sister's offer of mince



pies. Said they'd been doing this all day and couldn't manage another morsel, thanks all the same. I always wonder if burglars know about wrecker bars.

Well, anyway, there we were, my son and I, one day last month, taking advantage of the last bit of sunshine this year to eat our Marmite sandwiches in the front garden, which had burst out in a rash of late-blooming *Gloire de Dijon*. Keen to capture the scent of the Last Rose of Summer, I flung open the windows and doors, careful, as always, to put the front door on the latch. Afternoon turned to evening; Alexander fell asleep after his usual allowance of belliose 19th-century verse ("The Gaiting's jammed and the Colonel's dead..."). Night fell. I wandered round relocking windows and bolting the fearsome grilles that

cover the back door, and went to bed, to be woken some time later, in the pitch dark, by the sound of a foot on the stair.

This, in itself, was not especially creepy. Alexander is impatient with my slumber habits and is frequently to be heard making his way downstairs, on private business, in the hours around dawn. Usually, however, he announces his intentions in a sepulchral voice outside my door.

This time, it occurred to me, the step seemed strangely heavy for a four-year-old. And what was that curious dragging noise? Furthermore surely the penetrating smell of stale tobacco wafting under the bedroom door could have nothing to do with my dear little son? In horrid slow motion it struck me that, at last, the much-dreaded

burglars had arrived. And moreover, that no breaking and entering had been necessary. I had, by leaving the front door on the latch, in effect invited them in to my lovely home. Oooh-er.

Frankly, my intensive study of burglar psychology, and whether they were likely to be deceived by my elaborate system of time-switches on the lights, hadn't extended as far as interviewing one in my nightie on the stairs.

I lay very still in the dark and listened as the footsteps and the dragging noise rose to the landing, paused, and descended again. Accompanied by the sounds of it, struck me, increasingly disconcerted, around downstairs, I put on a pair of knickers and, thus fortified, did a certain amount of stamping about, in the hope that this might encourage whoever it was to push off. This I was relieved to observe from the landing window, they did, carrying my telly and video, swathed in black binbags, at a slow march down the garden path, like Squirrel Nutkin and Twinkleberry bearing their little girls of honey and marmosets to Old Brown. A panicky glance around the premises revealed, a shade insultingly I thought, that absolutely nothing else had been touched.

The fuzz rang me the next morning, interrupting Alexander's bitter reproaches for allowing him to sleep through all the excitement, to announce that they'd intercepted A Suspect, strolling up the hill with a telly in tow. Oh goody, said I, if it's mine ask him what he's done with the remote control, would you? Unamused, they remarked that I was a Very Silly Girl, with which I could hardly disagree. Though on reflection, most of my sympathy is with the burglars — that lovely open door, beckoning them in, and next to nothing inside worth carrying off.

INSPIRATIONS: Cool, sexy and tactile, the soda siphon is newly chic

SODA SIPHONS seem to be a *fin de siècle* fashion. Invented in the early 1870s, they hit the headlines when Oscar Wilde was wooing Bosie over hock, and seltzer at the Café Royal a couple of decades later — the seltzer probably emanating from a siphon of etched glass or wire mesh on their table.

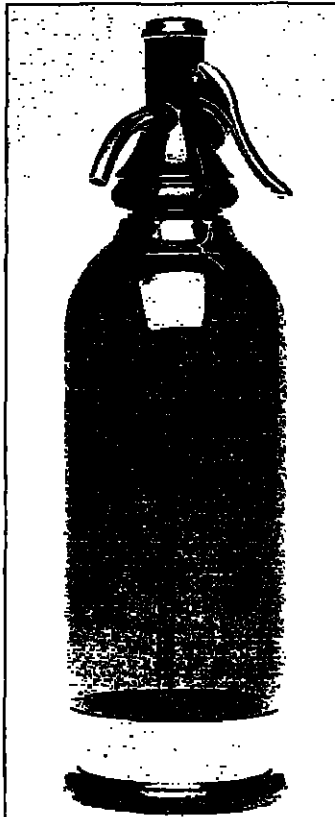
The siphon's second rise to popularity was in the cocktail-swilling 1920s when the only new design in its century-long life appeared. Instead of the straight-sided siphon — in glass, wire mesh or metal — the stylish double sphere, like a Cona coffee percolator, became the thing. And this design is still the most expensive and sought after today.

But why have siphons come back into vogue? Probably because fashions in drinking are changing again. Back has come the diluted hock and seltzer (we call it spritzer) and, in the puritan 1990s (at any rate as far as alcohol is concerned), back has come the smart, weak drink very different from the 1920s when gin and brandy were diluted with liqueurs and vermouth. Divertimenti, John Lewis and the Conran shop all stock traditional, straight-sided shaped soda siphons in glass.

Divertimenti's lightweight soda siphon in blue glass (£49.95) uses tap water and a soda cartridge: the Conran Shop's glass siphon, protected by wire mesh, not only comes in the traditional shape (£52.50) but also a sphere shape (£59), which, the Conran Shop says, is selling better at the moment. But customers like them both because they are tactile and are a nice weight. And John Lewis stocks a plain black clear bottle siphon (£29.75) and a chrome net bottle siphon (£35).

Alan Blakeman, the editor of the *British Bottle Review*, who also runs bottle auctions at Elsecar, near Barnsley, says the rise of the soda siphon coincided

How to make life a gas



Traditional straight-sided blue glass soda siphon from Divertimenti

with the rise in smart foreign drinks. "In the early 19th century, the rich drank wine and the poor drank gin. By the late 19th century, with the rise of the railways and international travel, whisky, brandy and even drinks

found in bars and hotels. And soda came with them."

The siphon worked on the same principle as the 1960s make-your-own soda but, instead of the owner putting a slug of carbonated fizz into the water via a capsule, the siphon was refilled at the factory. So, unless someone starts a new soda factory, most antique versions are for decoration only.

But old or repro siphons are extremely decorative. Victorian ones come in blue, amber, green and, occasionally, pink. Pink was the height of luxury since the colour was achieved by throwing gold dust into the glass mixture when it was molten. Even these, however, fetch only between £50 and £70 at auction or about double that in antique shops. Double spheres with wire mesh work out about the same.

Plain glass siphons dating from 1890 to 1915 are virtually two at a penny, selling at between £2 and £3 each — but beware of fakes. Sharp dealers use modern resins to coat the plain glass siphons in more expensive colours. You can check for authenticity by touching the glass with your lips — the most sensitive part of the body — to make sure the glass is adequately cold.

Metallic versions from the 1960s are smart but still cheap — at £1 or less — because collectors are not interested, says Blakeman. Pick them up at car boot sales and flea markets in brilliant red or silver.

LESLIE GEDDES-BROWN

Alan Blakeman publishes his quarterly magazine, the *British Bottle Review*, from BBR, Elsecar Heritage Centre, Elsecar, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S74 8HJ. (01226 745156) and his next auction is on November 23.

The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401), John Lewis branches (0171-629 7711) and Divertimenti, 139 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-589 7401).

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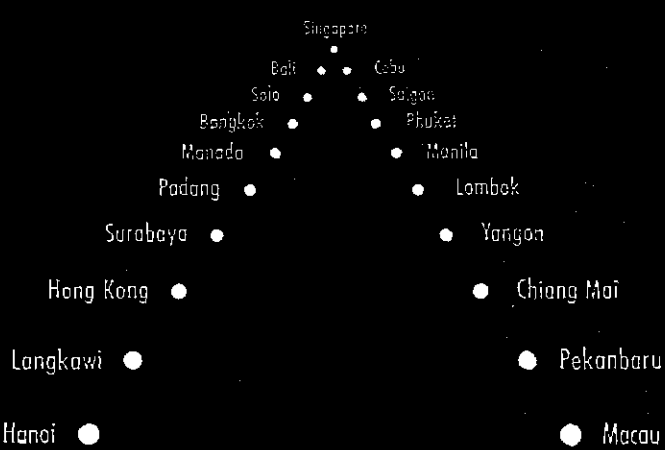
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A blow-out
in the Windy
City and
a Boston
tea party

Pages 18-19

THE TIMES Travel

Pizza Hut
and pop
music leave
their mark
on Warsaw

Page 22



Stepping stones in the Indian Ocean

The charming Comoros islands
have so far escaped a tourist
invasion, as **JOHN CARTER** finds

You would have to travel a long way to meet a man on the way to his second marriage in the company of his first wife — to whom he was still wed.

But we had travelled a long way, so our encounter with the wedding procession on the island of Grande Comore was really no big deal. After all, polygamy is commonplace on the islands of the Federal and Islamic Republic set, like stepping stones, in the Indian Ocean between Madagascar and Mozambique.

So there we were, in the village of Vanamboini, watching the procession of men going from the groom's home to the house of his new bride. Our guide, an all-around "Mr Fix-it" known as Papa Claude, had brought us there specifically for the wedding and was explaining the protocol. I understood about the gifts for the bride being carried aloft on silver trays, and the display of gold jewellery that was part of the pre-nuptial deal. I even understood that the bride's parents had, according to custom, built the house in which she waited to receive her husband and in which both would live.

What puzzled me, however, was the identity of the solemn-faced lady marching at the groom's side, sharing the shelter of the same large umbrella.

"She," explained Papa Claude, "is his sister."

At the time, I believed him. But having been on Grande Comore only a couple of days, I was not prepared to believe almost anything about these "Islands of the Moon", as the Arabs called them when they first brought their trading dhows south of the Equator. Others, later, dubbed them "The Perfumed Islands".

Although it is a travel writing cliché, Grande Comore is unspoilt, just as the Seychelles were 25 years ago. I would give it about five, maybe ten, years before

the tourist rot sets in. We had travelled from Britain via Dubai — a journey of about 17 hours — and we stayed at the Galawa Beach Hotel, which some believe is the only hotel on the island. There are others, but you are unlikely to see them in the travel companies' brochures.

The Galawa Beach Hotel is at Mitsamiouli on Grande Comore, about a 40-minute drive from the airport, and stands on a series of good beaches. Its buildings are just two storeys high, stretching away from the central area where reception, restaurant, bars, swimming pool and shops are located. All its 182 rooms are air-conditioned with views through the palms to the sands and the sea.

A slight element of Gallic anarchy happily pervades the hotel. I have rarely encountered a place where every guest seemed so obviously to be having a good time. The manager's influence has produced a touch of Club Med, and inspired his team of local and imported staff to maintain the party spirit.

The chef is from Mauritius, the professional musicians and singers from Madagascar, and the enthusiastic show dancers are local gardeners (and the hotel's English public relations lady) during the day. The entertainment is all the more enjoyable for not being slick and trouble-free, with dancing under the stars and "theme" evenings.

People go to the Comoros for the water sports, or so the experts tell me. The Galawa Beach has a large water sports dive centre, where sailing dinghies and catamarans are provided free, as are windsurfers, canoes, and waterskiing and snorkelling equipment. You pay for scuba diving, game fishing, parasailing and cruises in a 38ft ocean-going catamaran.

At the water sports centre, in a tank of preservative, is a



Herd instinct: local goats enjoy the beaches of Moheli, the smallest of the Comoros islands, which as yet is undeveloped for tourists

large female coelacanth — the fish about which the "living fossil" stories are written. The species was assumed to have become extinct 70 million years ago, but a specimen was washed up on a South African beach in 1938, and a second caught off the Comorian island of Anjouan in 1952.

None has survived, but a local story — impossible to verify during my visit — has it that a team of Japanese scientists believe they have the technology to keep a coelacanth alive and are to be seen from time to time in dedicated pursuit of "Old

Four Legs". The Galawa Beach specimen was caught offshore near Grande Comore's airport in 1995.

The Comoros are volcanic islands, with Mount Khartala, on Grande Comore, still active. Naturally it is on the sightseeing schedule, but you need to be fit to climb to its crater. You spend a night in a tent up there, and should be equipped for the Alps rather than the tropics. You also need to bear in mind that the volcano last erupted in 1976 and could blow again at any time.

The sightseeing tours also take you to the rainforest, which is more like a rain wood, to the island's capital, Moroni, and around the Sallimani Plain, an area of spice and perfume plantations. The main export, and the reason these became known as "The Perfumed Islands", is derived from the flowers of the ylang-ylang trees. When picked, they smell like cheap bath soap, but after a ton of petals has been distilled into 20 litres of liquid, the smell is more like glue — appropriate, as the liquid is what makes perfume stick to your skin.

Any place that has to rely on ylang-ylang and vanilla exports deserves a decent break, and the Comorians have decided that tourism is going to be it.

The Galawa Beach is part of the Sun International chain, the creation of Sol Kerzner, the flamboyant South African, and now South Africans make up the bulk of its guests. Johannesburg is, after all, only three hours away. Sun International has plans for development although, from what I could gather, a controversial project to build on the island of Moheli, the smallest of the Comoros, has been shelved in the face of ferocious opposition from environmentalists.

There is alleged to be an inter-island air service, but when we were there the forlorn aircraft (indeed, the only aircraft) of Air Comore's fleet — a Fokker F27 — remained parked at the edge of the airport "because of

something technical going wrong", according to Christian Antoine, the hotel manager. Two Soviet-built planes belonging to a Bulgarian charter airline that I had never heard of were spotted rumbling around the Comorian skies, but the thought of travelling in them was unappealing.

It is tempting to delve into the recent history of these islands, with their coups and counter-coups and invasion by French mercenaries, but all I would say is that, despite everything, the Comorians have managed to come up smiling. They are blessed with a delightful homeland, for all the volcanic uncertainty of Mount Khartala, and are genuinely pleasant to any strangers who happen to pass their way.

This may be because of what happened to a bunch of villagers who did not extend hospitality to a passing stranger. According to legend, the Prophet Muhammad himself came to an island village and was turned away by all except an old lady who gave him water. He told her to take her family up into the hills, and the offending village was then swallowed up by the sea. Lac Sale on the northeast corner of the island's coast is the location, and visitors are assured that the village still lies beneath its waters.

We went there, and to other photogenic locations, on the day before that wedding at Vanamboini, though it is that particular ceremony which remains strongest in my mind.

There is the memory of the village elders, in their best black and gold robes and kofia caps, walking gravely along the main road, each carrying an ornately carved walking stick. There is the sound of the women of the bride's family, chanting and singing in the recesses of the house as the groom's gifts were handed out.

When the grown-up solemnity became pomposity. There were long speeches, just as there are at weddings all over the world, though the presence of a British television crew probably raised the tone of the speeches (and the pomposity) to a higher level than usual.

Afterwards, walking back to our minibus, I was stopped by the grave-faced lady who had been walking beside the groom. In halting French, she asked if I would be on the island in a few weeks' time — she wrote the exact date in my notebook — to observe more

ceremony. Unfortunately, we would not. I asked her what ceremony her brother would be performing.

"He is not my brother. He is my husband," she replied. "I am now senior wife."

Papa Claude, anxious not to embarrass his monogamous visitors, had chosen to tell a white lie. Lost for words, I asked her again what the ceremony would be.

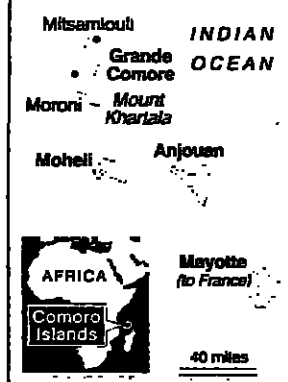
"A wedding," she replied. "He is taking a third wife."

I was, sadly, going back to Britain and, though I do not expect you to believe it, on the day of the third wedding I was going to St Ives.

FACT FILE

■ John Carter flew via Dubai with Emirates (0171-808 0808) which operates Wednesday and Friday flights. Air France (0181-750 4066) flies from Paris on Wednesdays. Emirates has a return economy fare of £1,799. But few flight-only tickets are sold as it is much cheaper to buy a package holiday, even if you do not use the accommodation.

■ Le Galawa Beach Hotel, PO Box 1027, Moroni, Grande Comore, Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros (00 269 7881 18/9). Standard room per person per night, half-board, double occupancy, is £106. Standard



single room per night, half-board, is £143. The exchange rate is 629 Comorian francs to £1.

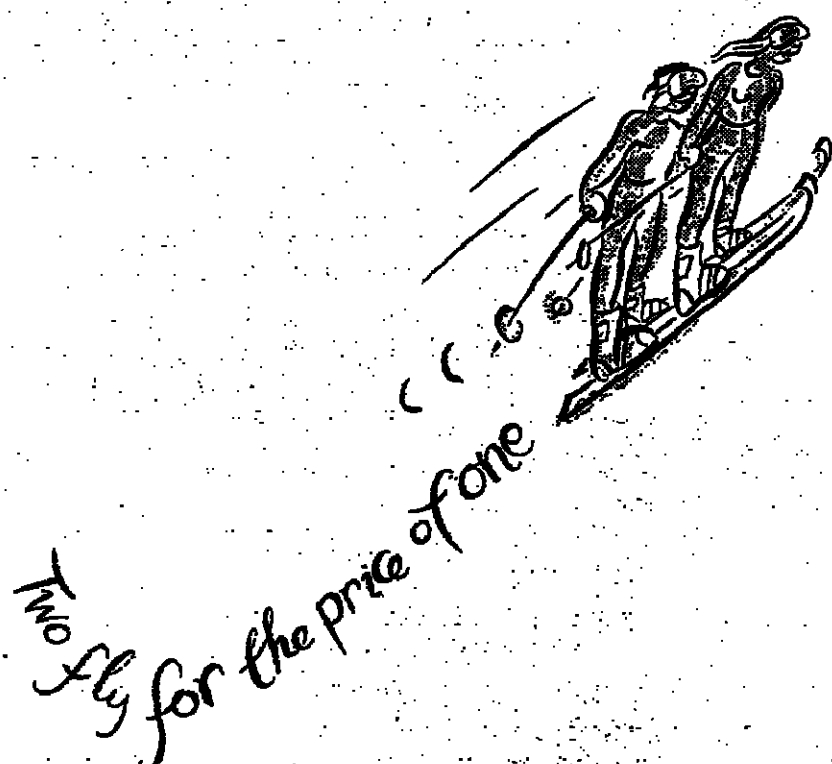
■ Kuoni, Kuoni House, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4AZ (01306 743000) in its new brochure offers week-long holidays including return flights with Emirates and half-board accommodation at Le Galawa Beach Hotel for £998 to £1,298. Extra nights cost £65 each.

■ Sunset Travel, 4 Abbeville Mews, 58 Clapham Park Road, London SW4 7BX (0171-498 9922) offers seven-night holidays to Le Galawa. Until the end of November, these cost £1,042 using Air France or £1,060 on Emirates. In both cases, extra nights cost £62.

■ The best time to visit is from May to October. It is hot and humid between November and April.

■ Tourist information in Britain is available from: Sun International, Badgemore House, Gravel Hill, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 4NR (01491 411222).

■ Reading: Sarah Anderson of the Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *Field Guide to the Mammals of Africa: Including Madagascar* by T. Haltenorth (HarperCollins, £14.99, ISBN 0 002 19778 2). *Historical Dictionary of the Comorian Islands* by Martin Owenheimer (Scarecrow Press, £22.50, ISBN 0 810 82819 7). *Madagascar and Comoros Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £9.95, ISBN 0 86442 196 6).

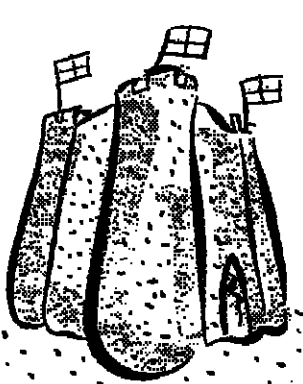


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America: Chicago is everyone's kind of town, with great shopping, food, music and cultural life ...



Monumental cityscape: Chicago not only boasts towering granite and glass skyscrapers but also a sublime symphony orchestra and some magnificent art collections

Blow-out in the Windy City

Chicago, so the locals claim, is known as the Windy City because of its political rather than its meteorological climate. I find this hard to believe. Wind-chill factor is the statistic on everybody's lips and -2C on the ground is often accompanied by a wind of -30C blasting across the plains of the Midwest.

On one crisp morning I made the cardinal error of stepping outside with damp hair. Within ten seconds it froze to the texture of crispy seaweed. I huddled into the back of a cab, wondering why anyone would build a

village, let alone a city, in such an inclement locale. Craning my neck, I tried to take in the monumental cityscape. It was like looking at the feet of a dinosaur. The city architecture must, apparently, be viewed from above to be fully appreciated. Accordingly I went to the top of the Sears Tower, the world's tallest building.

Viewed from the 100th floor, the granite and glass skyscrapers were dwarfed on the streets below, only Lake Michigan retaining its enormity. But the Windy City is not, in the words of the song, mighty pretty. You would not come here to admire the

scenery. Thankfully, the shopping, food and cultural life are terrific. On the Magnificent Mile (North Michigan Avenue) stand department stores such as Bloomingdale's and the grandiose Neiman Marcus, whose Christmas catalogue once included his'n'r her helicopters. And Marshall Field's on State Street is a Chicago institution.

Also fun is Woodfield Mall which provides "suburban sizzle" to the west of the city. Here the shops range from de luxe to déclassé, from handmade Italian shoes to raunchy underwear. I lunched from the "comfort

food" menu in the Rainforest Restaurant beneath a row of life-size plastic elephants who periodically hoot and waggle their ears.

The food was an unexpected delight. After five days I gained at least half a stone, straining the buttons of my jeans, and understood why Oprah Winfrey (whose empire is based in Chicago) has a weight problem.

The greatest thing about Chicago, though, is the culture. The neo-classical Chicago Art Gallery has a world-class collection of Impressionist art as well as

20th-century exhibitions. The basement is dominated by Chagall's *American Windows*, a huge, turquoise stained-glass window made by the artist at the age of 90. The upstairs houses Grant Wood's *American Gothic*.

Nearby stands Orchestra Hall. A classical music refugee, I thought I could not possibly appreciate the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Pierre Boulez, in its rendering of Dukas, Debussy and Varèse. But the beauty of the concert hall and the music touched even my heathen heart. During the interval I bought chocolates from the man behind the bar.

"Are you a fan?" I asked, gesturing towards the auditorium. "I prefer techno," he said and told me which nightclubs to go to and of his past career as a drag artist and his skills at giving an instant face-lift with a piece of knotted string. "I'm saving up to have my eyes done," he confided. "They do it with lasers, only \$3,000."

Alas, I never made it to any nightclub. "I.D.?" they asked, as I stood under a moustachioed Mona Lisa mural outside one club. What? Surely I looked over 21? However, as my passport was stowed away in the hotel safety deposit box, there was no techno for me that night.

I went instead to a blues bar, Kingston Mines. Inside the service was surly and the decor grotty. While men in ski jumpers listened to the band, Billy Branch and the Sons of Blues, who were black men in leather trousers. Against all the odds the atmosphere was vibrant.

Best of all Chicago's nocturnal entertainments was a comedy club, The Second City. This intimate nightspot on North Wells Street has been going for 33 years, and many comedians started here. I saw a Footlights review which made me laugh until I fell off my seat.

The comic invective was aimed at the mediocrity of America itself: the fast food restaurants, the high school proms, the *Blockbuster* video. For the first time, the citizens of the USA became human in my eyes. Even the name of the club, The Second City, is a wry allusion to the Chicagoan paranoia that outsiders will consider their home town second-rate. They have nothing to worry about.

ALICE DE SMITH

The author was a guest of the Illinois Tourist Board and American Airlines.

The man who built America

The double-decker train that carries tourists and commuters out to Oak Park, ten miles west of the Chicago loop, runs through the strata of big city sprawl. It is a journey through horizontal layers of prosperity and misery.

On the edge of the metropolis there are the first suburbs, dilapidated places which have had the stuffing kicked out of them and have lost their enterprising residents to ring towns further out. Next a green lawn zone of "porch wrapped" Victorian houses establishes itself for a moment and then loses confidence in a scruffy interlude of industrial building. But pass a freeway and suddenly the real America of Newt Gingrich opens out, meticulously manicured, stars and stripes flying luminous over the rooftops, neighbourhoods of neat, well attended churches and orderly schools. Welcome to Oak Park.

Oak Park is a suburb — but you can forget any prejudice that word stirs, any memories of Steptoe and Wives. Oak Park may look sleepy but it is a crucible of modern design and the place where Frank Lloyd Wright changed the face of domestic architecture. Wright's first home and studio are at the centre of Oak Park — and all around are 24 other buildings that he completed during the first 20 years of his career, the largest living museum of Wright architecture anywhere in the world.

What is so glorious about Oak Park for the visitor who wants to know more about F.L. Wright is not the nicely understated group tours, or the personal stereo that guides you down wide avenues of splendid houses, but the vivid sense one has of what it must have been like in the dying days of the last century to push at the boundaries of public taste and see things change.

Wright built his own single house with \$5,000 borrowed from Louis Sullivan (father of the Chicago School) and the great skyscraper brain behind the rise of that city) and later added a working studio. In the serene octagonal library, young F.L. Wright presented his designs to his clients. Sitting around the oak table with the daylight flooding in from the skylight above and the art glass windows to the sides, they must have been aware of the extraordinary talent with which they were dealing. Many mocked Wright's designs but a small band of rich, cosmopolitan, fairly

brave customers supported Wright and became the owners of his first Prairie Houses. These were not everything that the Victorian "Psycho" houses were not. Low hipped roofs replaced the steep pitch of the past.

Wright's houses hugged the ground, their strong horizontal lines emphasised by bands of windows across the building and strong, overhanging eaves making indoor-outdoor spaces that deliberately blurred the distinction between the airy inside of the house and the expanse of land around it.

Wright's Prairie Houses were for the American lifestyle and the American landscape. They were for modern, open living — little cosy box rooms, heavy drapes and a clutter of furniture and fireplaces were banished in favour of clean spaces done out in natural colours and materials.

For despite Wright's reputation as an urban and suburban architect his inspiration was Nature and elemental geometry. He told students: "The place for an architect to study construction first of all is Nature. In Nature you will find everything exemplified. Stay close to Nature. It will never fail you."

Looking around Wright's home and studio now, it's difficult to remember that the design was made while Victorianism was still monarch. Instinctively one knows that this is the blueprint of modern living. This is the precursor of the enduringly popular open-plan house that made a thousand sitcoms possible. The TV shows from Dick van Dyke onwards that play out their lives in one huge living room are a reminder of why Wright still rates as America's greatest architect 37 years after his death.

Not surprisingly, there are gaggle of Wright groupies in Oak Park. The Home and Studio are run by an impressive foundation largely made up of enthusiastic volunteers who have the Wright Life and Work off by heart. But thanks to their efforts the properties are very well run, there's a terrific bookshop and, for the home decorator, there are reproduction Wright lamps, china, candlesticks, glass and textiles.

Since at an auction a couple of years ago a single table lamp by Wright sold for over half a million dollars — one can only boggle at the possible value of the Oak Park property that carries the master's signature.

SUSAN MARLING



Frank Lloyd Wright's first home and studio in Oak Park

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CHICAGO FACT FILE

■ American Airlines Holidays (0181-577 9966) offers weekend breaks to Chicago with prices starting from £385 plus tax, which includes return flights and two nights' accommodation at the Holiday Inn City Centre. Prices are based on two people sharing a room. American Airlines flies daily nonstop to Chicago from Heathrow, Manchester and Birmingham.

■ British Airways Holidays (01293 723100) offers city breaks to Chicago. A three-night break at a three-star hotel within walking distance of the heart of Chicago and including scheduled flights costs from £435.

■ The Wright Weekend is an annual Wright festival held in Oak Park in May. Ten privately owned houses designed by Wright or his followers are open to the public by ticket at \$45. There are also special tours, a concert at Unity Temple, and a street party. For details, call the Illinois Bureau of Tourism office in London on 0181-680 0122 or the Oak Park Visitors Centre direct on 001 708 848 1500. Accommodation available.

■ Tours of Oak Park, the House and Studio and Unity Temple are available nearly every day through the rest of the year, organised both locally and through the Architecture Foundation at 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago (001 312 922 8687), for whom this is just one of 50 outstanding tours.

■ The Robie House, a consummate example of the Prairie style, now belongs to the University of Chicago (at 5757 Woodlawn Ave in the Hyde Park region). Free tours are given at noon.

■ Reading, *Adventures of Augie March* by Saul Bellow (Penguin, £7.99, ISBN 0 140 07772 1), *Chicago Loop* by Paul Theroux (Penguin, £5.99, ISBN 0 140 13135 3), *Michelin Green Guide Chicago* (£8.50, ISBN 2 061 5940 1).



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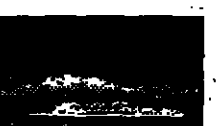
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SWAN HELLINIC
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... but Boston is stuffed with history — even if it has more to do with a television series

Three cheers for the Boston Strangler

How many men does it take to change a toilet roll? The barmaid in the Bull and Finch on Boston's Beacon Street asks loudly. She is wearing a Cheers T-shirt and khaki shorts and is attractive if not exactly Shelley Long. She looks around the bar and beams. "No one knows because it's never been done," she giggles, and a tourist takes her photograph.

We are in Boston's foremost tourist attraction, the bar upon which the TV series *Cheers* was based and the exterior of which was seen during the opening titles every week. That the inspiration for a fictional TV sitcom should have more people queuing down the street than the sites of the Boston Tea Party or the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence to Bostonians tells us something about the modern tourist, I suppose. It may, however, be too depressing to reflect too closely upon what exactly because Boston is more stuffed with history than any city in the United States.

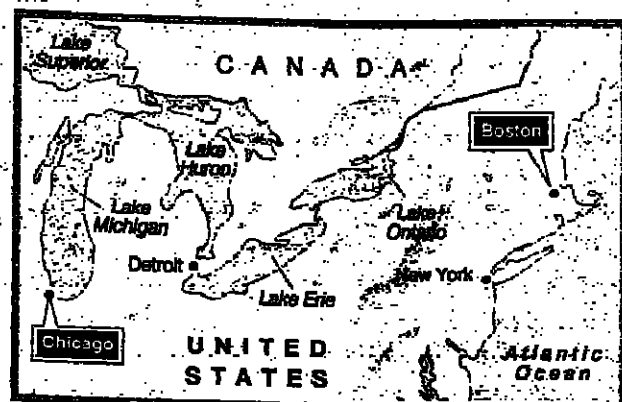
It is also now very easy to visit. Situated in the heart of New England, that most autumnally picturesque part of America, and only a very cheap six and a half hours flight from London (even shorter from Manchester or Glasgow), it is perfect for a sightseeing mini-break, or even a stress-free few days of cut-price shopping.

Usually when we think of American cities the vast steel and glass canyons of Manhattan or rolling freeways of Los Angeles spring to mind. But history has ensured that Boston is not like either. The oldest city in the United States, Boston began life as the centre of a British colony (the Pilgrim Fathers landed 40 miles down the road at Plymouth Rock) and everywhere the architecture, with its squares, steeped in 18th-century churches, and early 19th-century town houses on Beacon Hill, is a reminder of a colonial and not very distant past.

Inevitably there are now a cluster of high-rise towers (the view from the 42nd floor of the Prudential Building is a geography lesson in itself), and the suburbs stretch for miles around Massachusetts Bay. But Boston itself is a very small place, a walking city, as they say, two thirds built on land reclaimed from the sea in the 19th century.

With limited time a trolley bus sightseeing tour is probably the best way of finding one's bearings, but beware. I took the Old Town Trolley Tour, a 100-minute bus ride for £12 past Paul Revere's House, the 200-year-old USS Constitution, the State House, the site of the Boston Tea Party and all kinds of nooks and crannies to do with the American Revolution. Historically it should have been fascinating, but I ended up feeling like the Boston Strangler and fantasising that the tour guides were my victims.

The first one said he was studying to be a history teacher although I would have believed him better if he'd owned up to majoring in



FACT FILE

■ Virgin Atlantic (01293 747747) flies to Boston from Gatwick from £305. British Airways (0345 222111) flies from Heathrow, Glasgow and Manchester from £205.

■ Funway Holidays (0181-466 0222) offers two nights at the Copley Square Hotel in Boston from £296 with flights to and from London, Boston, for £338, including flights.

■ Funway has a special pre-Christmas package of four nights for the price of three at the Copley Square Hotel, from £339, including flights.

■ Travel in Boston is cheap with an 85 cent (54p) flat fare on the subway.

■ Information packs on Boston from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism on 0171-978 5233.

■ Reading: *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (Penguin, £5.99, ISBN 0 140 49052 0). *The Bostonians* by Henry James (Penguin, £2.99, ISBN 0 140 43225 6). *Blue Guide Boston and Cambridge* (A&C Black, £14.99, ISBN 0 713 63470 8).

cafes — proof that the nation of immigrants hasn't forgotten the old ways. In Faneuil Hall Marketplace (not unlike Covent Garden in London) I counted 53 restaurants, with specialities ranging from local chowder to Japanese, Mexican and even Bavarian dishes.

For more leisurely eating there is the Du Barry Restaurant Français, the oldest French restaurant in Boston, on Newbury Street in the Back Bay area. The Café Budapest specialises in Hungarian cuisine and there are Legal Seafood Oyster Bars throughout the city.

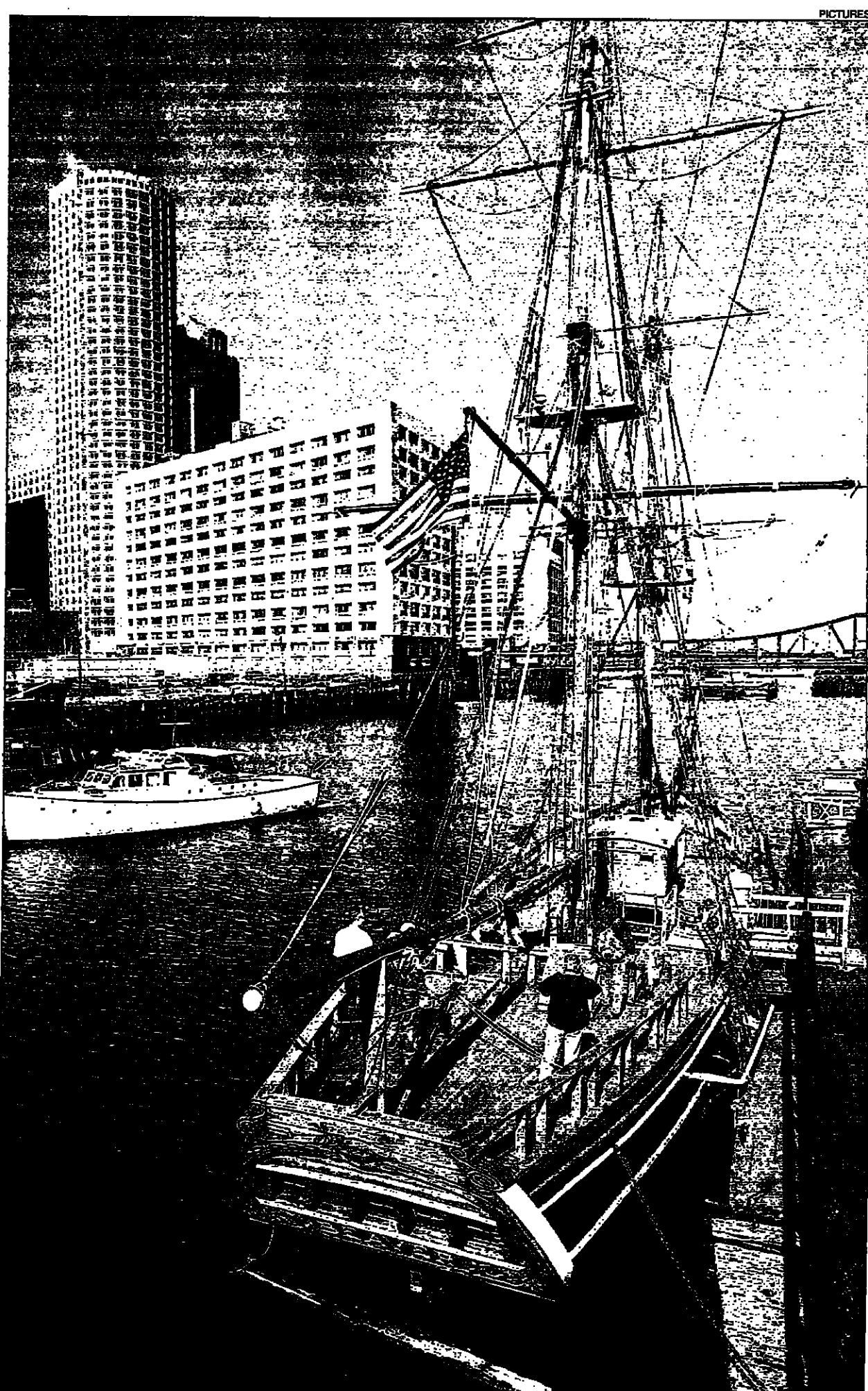
I'm not really one for museums, and the Old State House, once the British headquarters, in front of which the misnamed Boston Massacre took place, was disappointing, and surely hardly the place for a Second World War retrospective when there is so much earlier history to tell. But if you're interested in art the Venetian folly in which the Isabella Stewart Gardner collection (Rembrandt, Titian, Botticelli and Matisse) is housed is probably worth the cost of the flight alone.

I am one for trees and the vast elms, flaming maples and Japanese weeping willows of the Boston Public Garden impressed nearly as much as the information that the man who built the first gallows on Boston Common ended up being the first man to be hanged on them. Apparently he charged too much for his work and was summarily sentenced to death.

Unless you're being judicially strangled, Boston Common, just behind the old town, is a good place to observe a miracle of the modern Boston skyline. During the day the two largest skyscrapers, the John Hancock and the Prudential Building, are virtually invisible because their glass sides reflect the light all around. But as the sun goes down, hundreds of lighted office windows appear and the two giant obelisks become fully visible in the night sky.

And if it's night time, it's time for music so I went to the Bull and Finch again. The bar is full of noisy people. A recent cultural history quiz is held. The answers are Elvis, Chuck Berry, the Ronettes and the Crystals. I win and get a baseball cap with Cheers written on it. Don't Americans teach their children history at all?

RAY CONNOLLY
● The author was a guest of Funway Holidays and Virgin Atlantic.



Dartmouth, on which the Boston Tea Party took place, is not as popular as the bar on which *Cheers* was based

TRAVEL TIPS

Where on earth?

WHERE are (a) Belak, (b) Nunavut, (c) Mahinga, (d) Jambi, (e) Saaremaa, (f) Lalouq and (g) Zaarour?

They are all prospective holiday destinations peddled at the World Travel Market in London earlier this week, along with weekend breaks in Kiev, ecotourism in Oslo, and Jakarta as a cultural centre. Some are no doubt pie-in-the-sky but a few years ago, who would have dreamt of weekend breaks to Rio, that the Dominican Republic would become the new Costa Brava and that Goa would compete with Cyprus for winter visitors?

* (a) Turkish coast; (b) Canada's Arctic wilderness; (c) a Ugandan national park; (d) an island off Estonia; (e) Central Sumatra; (f) and (g) both Lebanese ski resorts.

All afloat

HOLIDAYMAKERS can follow the Rhine Festival from June 13-18 aboard *MS Austria*, which sails from Cologne to Mannheim, and stop for concerts at Cologne Cathedral, Schloss Augustsburg in Brühl, Schloss Bruchsal, Colmar and Schloss Ludwigsburg. Martin Randall Travel (0181-742 3355) also offers an Austro-Hungarian Music Festival on the Danube from August 16-23 on *MS Rousse*. Prices from £1,790 and £1,150 respectively.

Royal tent

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JILL CRAWSHAW

● More tips on page 22.

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The Midlands: From medieval battlements to rolling wooded hills, via the furnaces of a dark industrial past

Bed and bawd fit for a queen

You must see Shakespeare at Stratford," a thespian friend said, "horrible that anyone could reach the age of 26 without going through this rite of passage. So I told my companion that the environs of Stratford-upon-Avon were to be our destination for a three-day motor break. He listened aghast to my itinerary — Warwick Castle, Kenilworth Castle and Leamington Spa — and warned that it sounded like death by history.

Our first stop was anything but stuffy. Warwick Castle, set in the middle of the beautiful university town, has stood here in some form since the time of William the Conqueror. The pristine castle is an excellent stage on which to recreate medieval times. The Tussaud's Group, owner of the castle and the waxworks museum in London, has put on a waxworks exhibition showing the preparations for one of the battles in the War of the Roses.

Although I expected it to be tacky, it is far more lively and evocative than I imagined. You could tiptoe to within nibbling distance of these 15th-century folk and not tell them apart from the staff clad in period costumes.

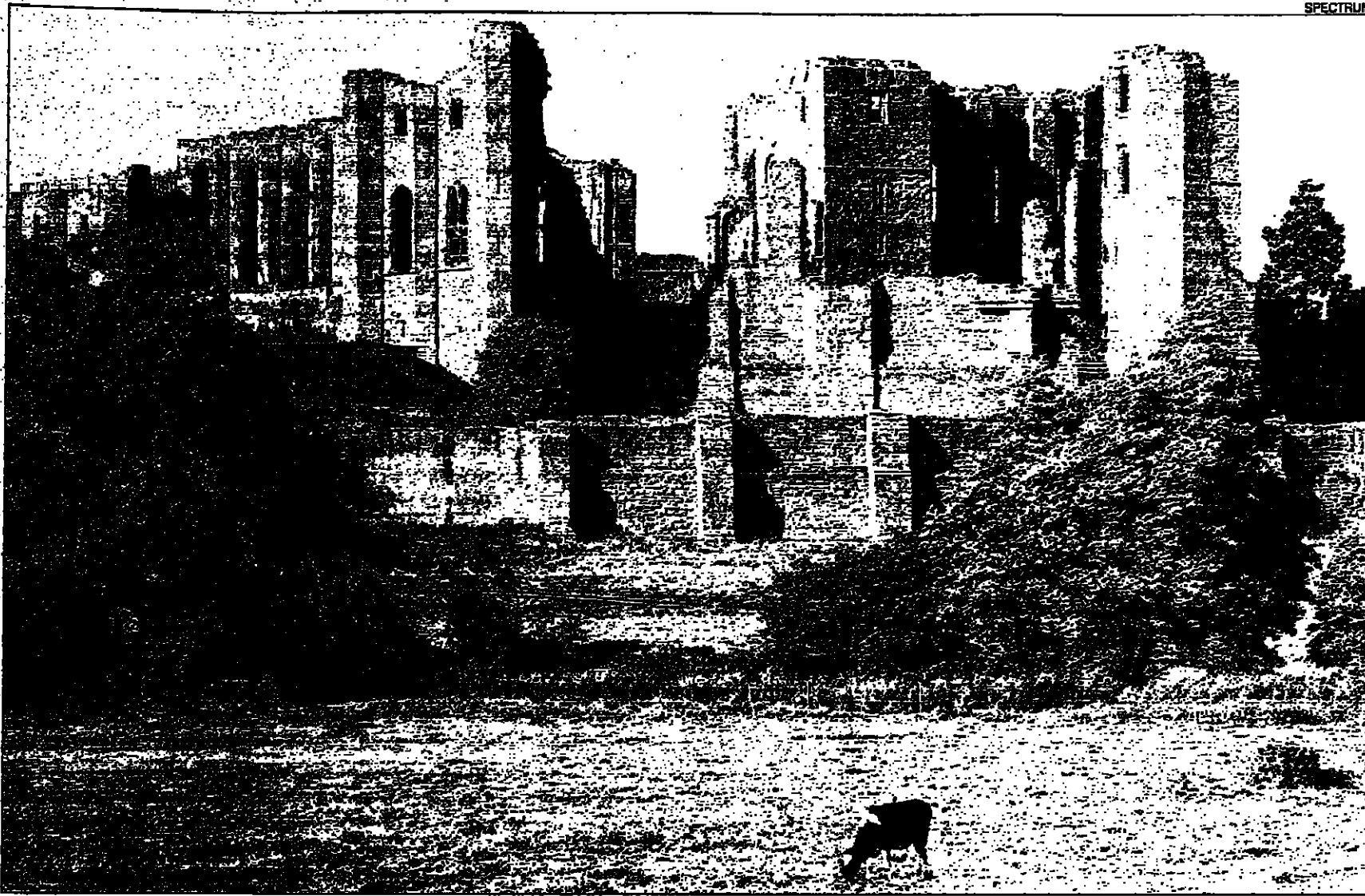
Because I love a good ghost story, I was impressed by the creepy voice echoing through the Ghost Tower, which is said to be stalked by the spirit of a murdered aristocrat.

The River Avon runs by the castle and a bridge connects the castle to an island, the scene of some bizarre zookeeping exploits in the 1890s. The then Countess of Warwick thought racoons, Japanese deer, Chinese geese, an elephant and an emu would make ideal pets. The emu gained notoriety for chasing a bishop around the castle grounds.

A problem with the castle is that it is a victim of its own success, attracting coachloads of visitors. This year it was given the National Heritage Award as Britain's finest family attraction. A winter visit might be less frustrating, and it might be wise to arrive just as the castle opens. Rather than jostle elbows in the castle's two restaurants and café, plump for a cream tea in one of the town's fine tearooms.

Kenilworth Castle, five miles north of Warwick, is a sober contrast to its neighbour: bare, ruined and magnificent. There are no restaurants or signposts, no exquisitely landscaped gardens, and few visitors. It is all the more romantic for it.

The Normans built the first



The impressive remains of Kenilworth Castle, a Roman fortress that became the home of Elizabeth I's favourite courtier, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

fortress here out of earth and timber. It was rebuilt in stone in the 12th century and surrounded by a great lake, now gone.

Before doing anything else, wander around the exhibition in the stables. Kenilworth is where Elizabeth I paid the longest visit to a subject. She was the guest of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, a favourite courtier who spent £60,000 over ten years preparing the castle for her visit. The relationship between the Virgin Queen and Dudley is dissected in satisfying detail — an Elizabethan saga of sex, death and ruffled collars.

With this wonderfully sordid tale planted in your mind, climb inside the roofless towers. You can look up at the sky through the same window frames that Elizabeth once peered through. The statuesque Great Hall, open to

the heavens, contains the carved fireplace of one of the grandest rooms in England. No waxwork dummies here, but you can imagine what saucy goings-on these buildings witnessed.

Several half-hour sight-seeing ambles are possible from the castle, one of which will take you to the ruins of a nearby abbey on Castle Green. The church of St Nicholas, marked with bullet holes from the Civil War, stands next to the remains.

Our final stop on the third day was Royal Leamington Spa, two miles east of Warwick, to take the waters as the Victorians used to. The peaceful and pretty Jephson Gardens, near the River Leam and opposite the Pump Room, are named after the doctor who brought the restorative powers of

the waters to public attention and wealth to the town. It is a faded wealth, now that people no longer flock here to seek relaxation and respite. The town's decline is mirrored in the fate of the central network of Regency houses, wide streets and graceful crescents, which are now limbs of an enormous shopping complex.

Disappointed, we drove back to Stratford for the culmination of our historical tour. Luckily *The Taming of the Shrew* turned out to be a hugely bawdy affair. That, together with the restful surroundings of the Welcombe Hotel, just outside Stratford, made our three-day jaunt a perfectly relaxing day by history.

ANJANA AHUJA
● The author was a guest of the Welcombe Hotel and Golf Course, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Birdsong and beauty bordering Birmingham

IT IS NOT HARD to get into the countryside from Birmingham. About ten miles to the southwest of the city centre, just over the Worcestershire border, are the Clent Hills: wonderful rolling hills of more than 400 acres with fine woods, heath and farmland.

Much of the Clent Hills used to be common land, with sheep, cattle and ponies grazing on the hillsides. Not so many animals are to be seen now, but in summer the bird life is as rich as ever, with meadow pipits on the grassland, tree pipits in the wooded valleys, and all the regular summer warblers to be heard. Buzzards and ravens sometimes drift in from the Black Mountains of Wales, which can be seen over to the west on a clear day, with the long blue line of the Malvern Hills to the south.

The National Trust owns much of the land, and last year took over the management of it from Hereford and Worcester County Council. A young warden, Chris Weaver, has started replanting grass and small trees in several areas alongside the footpaths, where erosion had worn much of the grass away, and the charm of the hills just above the village of Clent (a village of pubs and restaurants) is being restored.

Higher up, clumps of Scots pine planted as romantic features in the 18th century crown the horizon, and there is a completely fake circle of old stones that was erected as a picturesque addition at the same time. Age has given them authenticity as an 18th-century folly. Beyond the circle of stones stretch miles and miles of good walking.

THE PEOPLE of Birmingham used to come out into the hills to brawl and gamble in Victorian times, and the 1880 bylaws used the same language as today's Country Code: among the activities outlawed (in addition to the bawling and gambling) were "felling, cutting, burning, breaking or otherwise doing wilful damage or injury to the timber or other trees, shrubs, brushwood, gorse, furze, fern, flowers or turf on the common". The warden is still looking out for any breach of the bylaws.

The day I was there, there was a party of young Muslim women in exotic dresses walking about with their small children. They were from inner Birmingham, and neither mothers nor children had ever seen the English countryside before. They had been invited there as part of a new National Trust scheme to introduce more people to the countryside, especially those for whom it is an unfamiliar and even alarming place.

To make the introduction easier, there was an exotic line of custom-built scarecrows on one hillside, erected by a local "crow man", and the children were getting great amusement out of these. Let us hope that, with the help of the Clent Hills, they will graduate into seeing real scarecrows in due course.

DERWENT MAY

WARWICKSHIRE FACT FILE

- Warwick Castle, Warwick CV34 4QU (01926 406600). Open daily (except Dec 25) 10am-5pm (Nov-Mar), 10am-6pm (April-Oct) 7pm on August weekends. Admission £8.25, children £5.25. Concessions for OAPs and groups.
- Kenilworth Castle, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1NE (01926 852078). Open daily (except Dec 24-26 and Jan 1) 10am-4pm (Oct-Mar), 10am-6pm (April-Sept). Admission £2.50, children £1.30, concs £1.90.
- The Welcombe Hotel and Golf Course, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 0NR (01789 295252, fax 01789 414666). Prices per night start at £110 for a single room, £150 for a double, both including breakfast. Country House Weekends available at £195 per person for two nights with breakfast and dinner. Deluxe rooms available at a £60 supplement. The weekend price includes free admission to Warwick Castle and to one of six local National Trust properties.

Etched in black and gold



Keith Cheetham at the Black Country Museum

I must be a job selling the Black Country. The name carries heavy connotations: industry, soot, dirt and grime. Its whereabouts, "above Gloucester" and "below Manchester", perhaps. Not that this deters Keith Cheetham, the area's director of tourism. "We have the old heavy industry image to overcome, but once people have been here their perception changes for ever," he said.

Officially the Black Country takes in four West Midlands boroughs: Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dud-

ley. The area led the early Industrial Revolution. It had out-crop coal, charcoal, iron, firestone and lime. Cottage industries spread from village to village until each had its own specialism. Blacksmiths crafted awls and corkscrews. Rowley made jew's-harps. Cradley Heath hammered chains and anchor cables. Oldbury specialised in chemicals; Willenhall in locks; West Bromwich in springs; Stourbridge in glass. Tipton-on-Cut had so many canals it was called the Venice of the Midlands.

The Black Country skyline was dark by day (hence the name) and gold by night because of plumes of soot and the glow of furnaces. Queen Victoria snapped shut her carriage curtains when she sped through by train.

The furnaces still fire and blast today, as they have since 1776, at Royal Brierley Crystal in Brierley Hill. The factory visits display glass blowing, glass turning, marking, etching and polishing. World-class craftsmanship passes from master to apprentice. Watch-

ing the diamond lathe etchers is a show of skill and concentration. American tourists seek out Royal Brierley.

The heart of the Black Country is Dudley and its focus is Dudley Castle. Its hill site has housed a castle since the time of Dudo, a Saxon king. The ruin (abandoned in 1750) rests on a seven-mile ridge running southeast from Wolverhampton known as the Dorsal Ridge of the Black Country. It is England's main watershed. Rain falling on its west side trickles to the Bristol Channel. Water on the east heads for the North Sea.

An excellent exhibition in the castle conjures the colours, sights and sounds of a medieval motte and bailey. Directly beneath the castle hill is an early canal system, the Dudley Tunnel. It was cut in 1775 and linked the Earl of Dudley's limestone mines with the Birmingham and Stourbridge Canals. A boat trip through the system to hear the history of the caverns and mines is perfect on a still summer night.

The region's top draw is the Black Country Museum, an industrial heritage of film-set proportions. Imagine typical Black Country buildings — 19th-century foundries, metal workshops, ironworks and stores — moved brick by brick and reassembled as a 26-acre model village. The streets are cobbled, the shops packed with period goods and costumed actors greet you at anvil and doornest and recount the conditions of the day.

Many new tourists attracted to the Black Country have local connections, often tracing their family history. They may be as intrigued as the Americans to discover where the Black in BC comes from.

ALEX WIERATNE

● Where to stay: Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, Dudley (01384 482882). Weekend rate £109, two nights' double B&B plus museum tickets. Fairlawns at Aldridge, Little Aston Road, Aldridge (01922 55122). Weekend rate £55, double B&B.

● Black Country Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley (0121 557 9643). Open Wed-Sun 10am-4pm until Dec 25. £5.95, children £3.95.

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THE ITINERARY

- DAY 1 London (Gatwick) - Colombo with British Airways.
- DAY 2 Colombo. On arrival drive to the MS Caledonian Star. Embark and sail in the evening.
- DAY 3 At sea
- DAY 4 Male, Maldives. Our first call in the Maldives will be at the capital of Male. Here there will be a morning walking tour visiting the Great Mosque, museum and market. Sail during lunch to the lovely resort island of Bandos for an afternoon of leisure.
- DAY 5 Maldives. Today we will explore the Maldivian Archipelago, using our Zodiac craft to land on tiny atolls and for those who wish to swim and snorkel over the reefs.
- DAY 6, 7 & 8 At sea
- DAY 9 Praslin. We will reach the Seychelles in the afternoon. Our first landfall will be Praslin where we will moor overnight.
- DAY 10 Praslin-La Digue. Morning visit to Praslin's famous Vallée de Mai, the exotic rain forest nature reserve which is home to the bizarrely shaped coco de mer and the rare black parrot. Sail during lunch to nearby La Digue, thought by many to be the most beautiful of all the Seychelles islands. Explore on foot, bicycle or on foot. See the stunning beaches with the giant granite outcrops. Moor overnight.
- DAY 11 Cousin. Morning visit to the Special Nature Reserve of Cousin, an island totally encircled by a reef. This is a wonderful place to see many of the Seychelles' rarest birds, also



the endangered hawksbill turtle and the giant Aldabra tortoise. Sail during lunch to Anse Lazio, a spectacular beach on the north western tip of Praslin. Here you can enjoy the excellent swimming or snorkelling or join an organised walk along the fascinating network of footpaths through the forests and along the headlands. Moor overnight.

DAY 12 Grand Souir. Morning visit to the tiny island of Grand Souir, followed by an afternoon on Cousine. Join an island walk, look out for the giant tortoises reintroduced from Aldabra, see the ruins of an old leper colony and enjoy the splendid beaches.

DAY 13 Aride-Bird Island. Formerly a plantation island, Aride is now a nature reserve and home to over a million sea birds. Sail during lunch to Bird Island, a tiny mile long island famous for a huge population of sooty terns. The evergetic may circumnavigate the island of foot.

DAY 14 Mahe. Arrive at the Seychelles capital in the morning and disembark. After an island tour we will drive to the luxurious Plantation Club Hotel or similar for an overnight stay.

DAY 15 Mahe-London. Day at leisure until evening departure with Air Seychelles to London.

DAY 16 London (Gatwick). Morning arrival.

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EXCLUS TO THOMAS COOK

Poland: Pizza Hut and pop music have made their mark but it's impossible to ignore the past

Baroque with a pinch of salt

After the cemetery," says Dr Bazzowski, "we will go to the salt mine." Tourism in Poland offers some novel experiences. Since the fall of Communism in 1989, the country has embraced the West and many of its values. Pierre Cardin, Benetton, and Pizza Hut line city streets; 24-hour drive-in diners bustle in the suburbs; strip bars and Gay Video Peep Shows lurk down cobbled alleys.

The free market economy has brought Michael Jackson — booking 69 rooms at a plush Warsaw hotel — and a contained explosion of tourism. And it has brought Dr Bazzowski to our hotel in Krakow, Poland's former capital.

Dr B is a retired geologist. He wears a baggy blue suit and a tight pullover, tucked into his trousers. We have too little time to appreciate Krakow, he says, so he packs six hours of sightseeing into three hours before lunch. He skids and scurries along the rainy streets, a baggy blur. His commentary gets ever more frenetic — names, dates, styles, everything either very famous, very important or very interesting. By noon, he is faster than shorthand.

First, we hit the *Schindler's List* Trail. Steven Spielberg filmed extensively in Krakow, where the German industrialist saved the lives of many ghetto-dwellers. "He made a few mistakes," says Dr B. "But not special ones." The line — recalls the Polish government minister who described the economy as "good, but not hopeless."

Dr B leads us through shabby industrial back streets into an overgrown Jewish cemetery. The graves are covered with moss and ivy. The Nazis smashed many of the stones and used them for pavements. Fragments have been rescued and set in concrete as a Walling Wall. Fractured scraps of surname — ...amberger, Rosen... — are stark reminders of oppression.

Later our bus bumps along a potted street to Schindler's factory. Opposite a Solidarity noticeboard is a torn photograph of Schindler surrounded by factory workers. We peer through the locked gates (it is Sunday) and a man in an old vest starts down at us from a first floor window. He shakes his head and pulls the curtain.

Even 50 years on, it's difficult to avoid the war in Poland. The journey north to Nazi-devastated Warsaw will feature a harrowing afternoon at Auschwitz, but for the moment, we take in Krakow, a beguiling city which modern planners have yet to blight.

Its central square is reputedly the biggest and best-preserved in Europe. Buildings of Baroque extravagance and 18th-century elegance alternate with churches piled high with towers and turrets, spires, domes and pinnacles. Outside the church, stocky old women with headscarves and thick woollen socks sell bread rings and dazzling yellow orchids. Nuns heave great bags of shopping up narrow streets. And at

the Staropolska Restaurant, a thick-set family sits down for a breakfast of boiled pig's leg, potatoes and cabbage. Poland is a meat-eater's paradise; as a vegetarian, I ate a lot of eggs. The record was seven in one day (variously cooked).

After lunch (omelette), it's time for the salt mine — at Wieliczka, ten miles east. This is tourism for human moles; a two-mile trek around underground passages that pull in 600,000 visitors a year. In three hours, we learn most of what there is to know about salt.

The mine — 1,000ft at its deepest and with 190 miles of passages — has been worked since 1280. It has long been a fashionable place to visit. Chopin came here, Goethe, the Pope (three times) — and Baden Powell, though his significance is lost on a group of Polish railway workers: "Baden Baden?" There's an underground tennis court, a

pin and Lutoslawski, he settled here in the 1930s and his home, a wooden chalet, is now a lovingly-maintained museum. Young women with serious faces sit on the vine-covered verandah, clasp their hands and listen as his music blasts from the loudspeakers.

Around the house are his white bow tie, apparently just dropped there 60 years ago after a concert, a cigar holder, a typewriter, an alarm clock, a reading lamp with its parchment shade carefully tilted. The atmosphere is powerful — fusty, Bohemian, slightly repressed.

Chopin's birthplace, further north at Zelazowa Wola, is a more formal affair. Recitals are regular events. A dozen-strong audience sits ten feet from a Steinway grand and suddenly a mature lady pianist swoons on the keyboard. She is swathed in purple chiffon. At three in the afternoon, it's as though Elvira from *Blithe Spirit* has materialised to bang out a few mazurkas. At climaxes, her dangling earrings jangle in time to the music. Outside, stalls sell Multimedia Chopin on CD-Roms.

The atmosphere of Chopin's music is less self-consciously distilled at nearby Nieborow, a grand 18th-century palace which the composer knew. Behind statues of sprawling lions, the gardens stretch out like a miniature Versailles. The gardeners sit eating their lunch between piles of autumn twigs.

Our week centres on Czestochowa — an average town but one of the world's great pilgrimage centres. In the hilltop monastery, old women whisper rosaries and office workers haul in candles as big as pillars. The walls are covered with crucifixes and, bizarrely, crutches and walking sticks. There's a strong hint of miracles.

The focus is the Black Madonna, a much-venerated painting over the altar. As the service closes, fanfares sound, a gold screen slides down over the Madonna, the Church's craving for drama is satisfied and the old women waddle to the confessional.

Those old women survived the Nazi occupation, now chillingly remembered at Auschwitz, where prisoners were taken "to start a new life". School parties tour the camp, which presents unspeakable horror with forensic matter-of-factness. It makes an unlikely tourist attraction but, in Poland, an inevitable one. In Warsaw on our last night, we see photographs of the Nazis' destruction of the city — prairies of demolished brick under a slate-grey sky. The old city has been rebuilt, like a stage set. It is, say Warsawians, the newest old city in Europe.

The crowds are out for Michael Jackson. Street markets flourish. Another McDonald's opens. Poland renews itself again.

STEPHEN McCLEARENCE
● The author was a guest of Exodus and Polish LOT Airways.



vast cavern of a cathedral with The Last Supper carved out of salt and a Disneyesque sideshow where a small man wearing an enormous gnome's head spends his days banging lumps of rock salt together and gazing plaintively at visitors. It makes working in Santa's Grotto look dignified.

We drive south, past farmyards of geese, fields of rain-drenched haystacks and farmers with horse-ploughs, to Zakopane, a winter sports resort in the Tatra mountains. The scenery is reputedly stunning, but the mountains stay hidden in mist for two days. Only as we leave do the white peaks gleam in a sudden spotlight of sun and, point proven, the clouds close again like a theatre curtain at the end of a show.

The town centre is Poland's answer to Aviemore — eateries with spit-roast chickens, Swiss chalet hotels and tacky tourist stalls. National styles may vary but junk is universal. In the "folk restaurants", men with walrus moustaches holler raucous songs about unfaithful women and exile from the mountains. They play sweaty peasant dances on violins and, between vodkas, point out that their leader's grandfather taught his folk melodies to Szymanowski. Karel Szymanowski was Zakopane's most famous resident. As Poland's major composer between Cho-



The Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. The city was rebuilt after the war

TRAVEL TIPS

Driving force

THE Australian *Magic Holiday Guide* from Airline Network (01772 72 72) offers self-drive holidays in Australia and New Zealand. Jill Crawshaw writes: A nine-day Brisbane-Cairns self-drive holiday costs from £399 per person, including eight nights' accommodation and car hire.

All afloat

ABERCROMBIE & Kent's (0171-730 7795) new Discovering Africa programme offers unusual lodges and off-the-beaten track safaris in 12 African countries. Some tailor-made for individual travellers, others for escorted groups. During a week's "Wings over Tanzania" safari you hop from Tarangire National Park, one of the country's least visited reserves, to Ngorongoro, and from Serengeti to Arusha, for £2,920.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from Page 27

TWANKAY

(c) A variety of green tea (in full *Twankay tea*), properly from the place so called. But also applied to blends of this with other growths. A toponym from the Chinese Tong-ké, dialect form of *Tun-ki* or *Tun-chi*, the name of two streams (and a town) in Anhui and Chih-kiang, China. Authorities differ as to which of these is the true source of the emetic tea. "He didn't want to sit drinking hot grog with the old boy. He infinitely preferred cold Twankay, with the young damsel."

TENACE

(a) A name given to the combination of two cards of any suit, consisting of the next higher and the next lower in value than the highest card held by the other side, especially when this combination is held by the fourth player. From the Spanish *tenaza* pincers or tongs. "If you have tenaces in your hand, that is two cards which, if you have the leading, you are sure to lose one of them; if the player lead to you, you are sure to win them both."

UMBEL

(b) A mass of inflorescence borne upon pedicels of nearly equal length springing from a common centre. Adaptation of the Latin *umbella* a sunshade or parasol, the diminutive of *umbra* a shadow. "On the top of the branches of the elder, there spring sweet and crisped umbels; swelling with white odoriferous flowers."

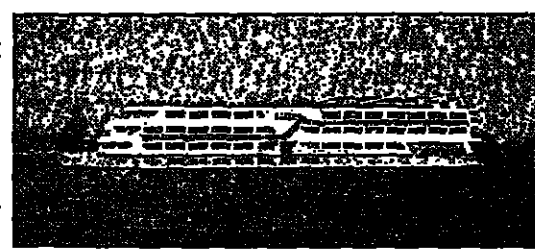
URSULINE

(b) A religious order of nuns, established under the rule of St Augustine in 1572 from a company founded at Brescia in 1537, for the teaching of girls, nursing of the sick, and the sanctification of the lives of its members. The eponym of *Ursula*, name of a legendary early British virgin-martyr. "These it is my purpose to dedicate to Heaven, in the convent of the Ursulines."

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■ Exodus (0181-675 5550) offers a 14-day Historic Poland Discovery Holiday, including Krakow, Czestochowa and Warsaw, from £770, which covers return flights from London with LOT Airways, transfers, accommodation, transport and a guide. A local payment of £80 covers half-board.

Departures from June to September.

■ The Polish airline LOT (0171-580 5037) flies from London to Warsaw daily from £205 return (including tax) and from London to Krakow three times a week from £240.10 return (including tax). British Airways (0345 222111) flies

direct from London to Warsaw from £236 return.

■ In Warsaw, the Solec Hotel (00 88 22 625 4400) charges about £60 a night for a double room with breakfast. The Hotel Europejski in Krakow (00 48 12 251503) charges about £35 (double without breakfast). The Bialy Potok Hotel in Zakopane (00 48 165 14380) charges about £30 and in Czestochowa, the Hotel Patria (00 48 34 247001) about £55 (both double with breakfast).

■ UK passport holders do not need visas. Sterling or travellers cheques (dollars are preferred) can be changed in hotels and main banks. The unit of currency is the zloty. A good meal can cost less than £5.

■ Polish National Tourist Office: 0171-580 8811.

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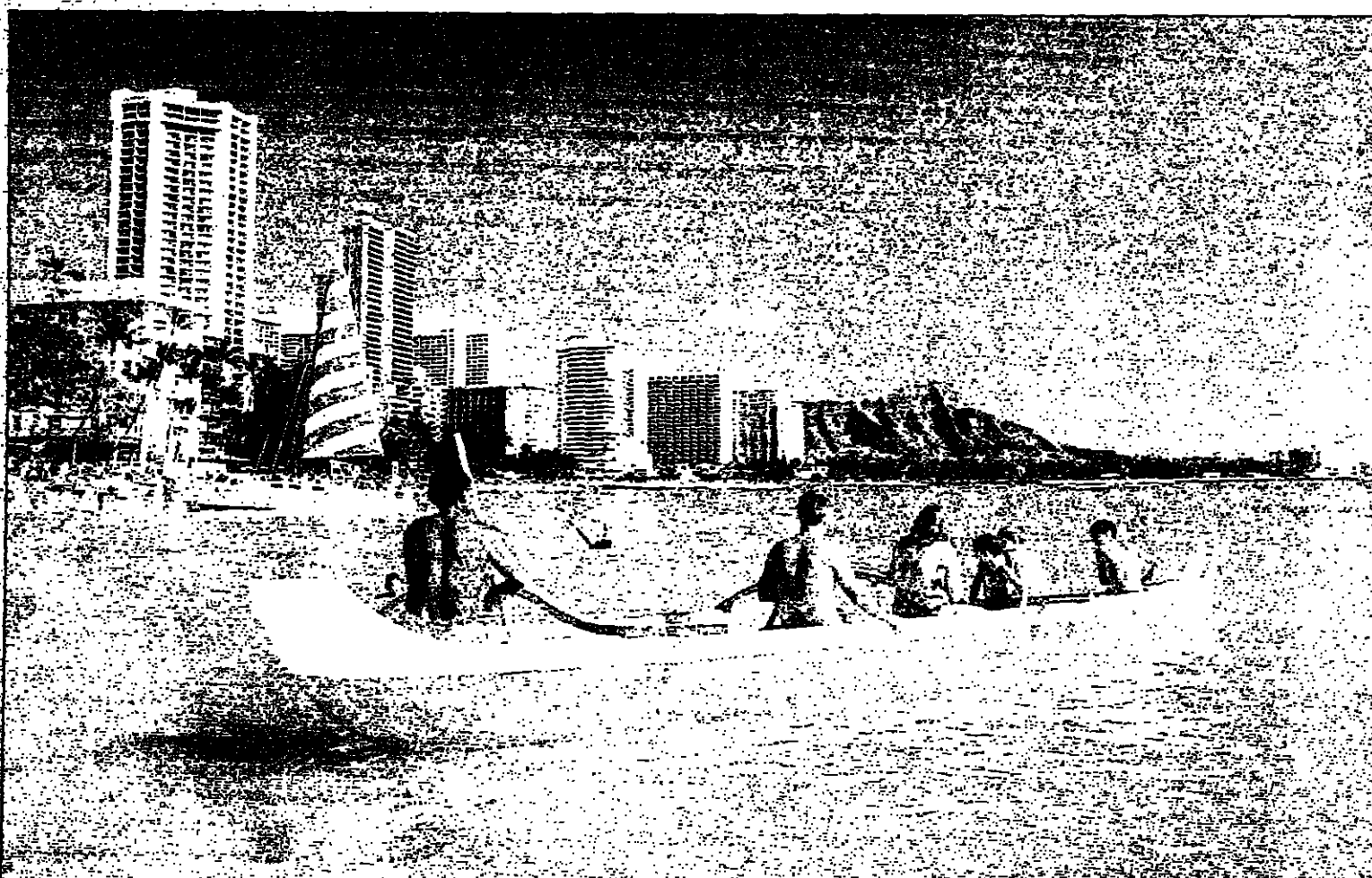
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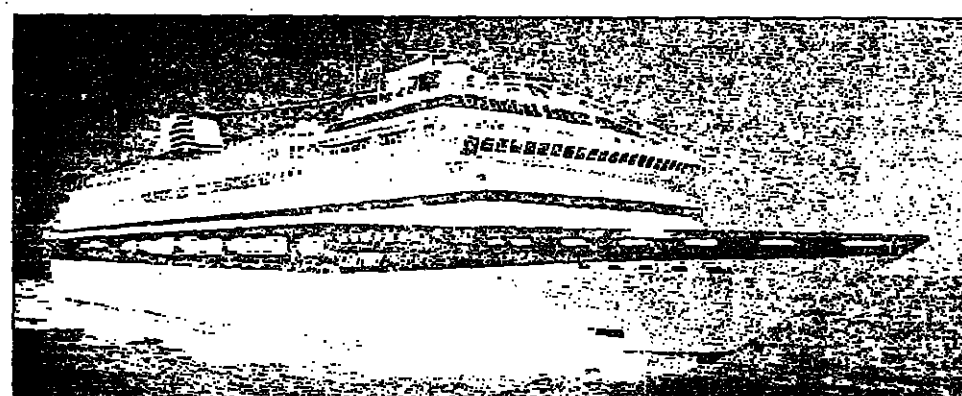
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